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THE TIMES

MONDAY MAY 3 1982

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British Rail to drop tilting train

British Rail's 160mph tilting Advanced Passenger Train is to be abandoned for a time because it is still showing too many faults. Instead, an electric version of the Inter-City 125 diesel train is to be urgently developed. It is expected to go into service in the mid-1980s. **Back page**

Begin abandons settlements Bill

Mr Begin has dropped plans to ask the Knesset to approve a Bill which would have barred future Israeli governments from removing Jewish settlements in peace treaties with Arab states. Most of his Cabinet did not agree with the Bill. **Page 6**

Day-time jails proposed

An idea being discussed by magistrates and Home Office staff would mean that some categories of prisoners would be sent home at night, in an attempt to reduce overcrowding in Britain's jails. **Back page**

Iran advance

Iran says that its weekend offensive is now within 15 miles of the port of Khorramshahr. Iraq claims to have repulsed the attack. **Page 6**

Job aid merger

The Government is considering merging the proposed Community Work Scheme, which is opposed by union leaders, with the Community Enterprise Programme, which provides work for 30,000 unemployed people each year. **Page 5**

Botha talks

President Kaunda of Zambia may have further talks with Mr P. W. Botha, the South African Prime Minister, according to a senior Zambian official. **Page 6**



WPC injured in attack

WPC Beverley Townsend, aged 19, is recovering in hospital after being attacked by two men she tried to question in Firth Gardens, Fulham, London. They punched her in the face, grabbed her by the throat and pushed her into a brick wall.

Le Monde editor

M. Andre Laurens, deputy political editor, has received the overwhelming support of journalists at Le Monde and seems certain to become the next editor of the French daily newspaper.

James wins

A level-par last round of 72 was enough to give Britain's Mark James victory in the Italian Open golf championship in Sardinia yesterday. **Page 12**

Football riot

Football supporters attacked a May Day rally in Frankfurt, barricaded the city centre and fought among themselves, injuring more than 140. **May Day turns ugly, page 6**

Leader page 9
Letters: On defence policy, from Mr Michael Chichester; benefits and youth training, from Mr Nicholas Hinton; circus animals, from Miss Mary Chipperfield.
Leading articles: Falklands, Poland.
Features, page 8
The real Nye Bevan, by Neil Kinnock, MP; a Hungarian priest in battle with his bishops; a book that should be read 100 years from now, by Philip Howard.
Obituary, page 10
Mr A. W. Tait, the Right Rev W. A. Parker.

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Mrs Thatcher's offer of all-party talks turned down by Foot

● As Britain and Argentina hovered on the brink of all-out war, an offer by Mrs Thatcher for all-party talks at Westminster on the Falklands crisis was rejected last night by Mr Michael Foot in the wake of Saturday's assault on Port Stanley. The Liberals and SDP agreed to join the talks.

● Mr Francis Pym, the Foreign Secretary, conferred in Washington with senior members of the Reagan Administration before flying to New York for talks with the United Nations Secretary-General.

● In Buenos Aires, the military junta admitted the loss of two jets in Saturday's dogfight but claimed that severe damage had been inflicted on British aircraft.

● The Ministry of Defence said in London that the Argentines had lost up to three aircraft.

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

Thatcher has now to decide whether to go ahead with the talks without Mr Foot.

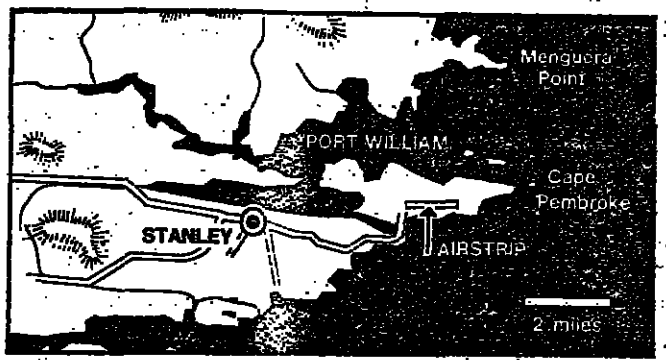
The offer placed Mr Foot in difficulties. He has not sought consultations, wishing to be free to judge, and criticize if necessary, the Government's actions as they have developed.

With the Argentine rejection of the United States proposals Mrs Thatcher had offered to see opposition

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party leaders, probably tomorrow on the return of Mr Francis Pym, the Foreign Secretary, from America to discuss "on privy council terms" the outcome of his talks in Washington and New York.

Mr Foot felt that the constraint imposed by the receipt of information on privy council terms, thus binding him to secrecy, would have inhibited him from criticism.



Main target: Port Stanley airstrip outside the town.

Aircraft losses admitted

From Christopher Thomas, Buenos Aires, May 2

Argentina today admitted the loss of two Dagger aircraft, the Israeli version of the French Mirage jet, in dog fights with British Harriers over the Falkland Islands.

In a detailed version of the first day of battle in the South Atlantic Argentina claimed that severe damage was inflicted on British aircraft, it said the British had been forced to cease their attacks on Saturday "because of their lack of capability and strength" to keep up the assault. Attempted landings had been foiled.

Saturday's battle was followed avidly on state radio and television which broadcast a flurry of communiques relating series of alleged victories over the British. President Galtieri was two hours late for a scheduled nationwide broadcast. When he finally appeared he gave a highly optimistic account.

At one point he said that the conflict was costing Argentina many lives and would surely cost many more. But the official English translation today pointedly dropped the reference to lives already having been lost.

The Defence Ministry in Buenos Aires continued to insist tonight that Argentine forces had captured the pilot of a Harrier jet after had bailed out over land, and that his name, rank and serial number would be released in due course.

It claimed that two Harrier jets had been shot down in one attack, three in another, and that there was evidence of four other British aircraft being brought down further out to sea.

The joint Chiefs of Staff denied that the Port Stanley runway had been damaged. "All that happened was a small fire caused by an exploding oil barrel," they said. "Personnel and material damages are not at all significant." They claimed to have inflicted unspecified damage on British aircraft carrier, and shot down two helicopters.

The Argentines say that six of their troops have been injured, one seriously. A communique accused the British of shooting indiscriminately and endangering the safety of the islanders.

About 3,000 Paraguayans, waving Argentine and Paraguayan flags, shouted anti-British slogans outside the presidential palace in Buenos Aires (Reuters reports). An effigy of Mrs Thatcher was set alight.

Both sides hover on brink of war

By Henry Stanhope, Defence Correspondent

Britain and Argentina hovered, uncertainly on the brink of more open and continuous conflict last night after the weekend's dramatic sea and air engagements in the South Atlantic.

At least two and possibly three Argentine aircraft were shot down and another seriously damaged, a British sailor slightly hurt and a Royal Navy warship scarred by shrapnel in the most serious outbreak of fighting since the Buenos Aires government seized control of the Falkland Islands one month ago.

In London there was speculation over a possible British landing on the islands whose Argentine garrison is now isolated from the mainland following the comprehensive bombing by Royal Navy and Royal Air Force aircraft of the runway at Port Stanley.

Prince Andrew, a helicopter pilot on the carrier HMS Invincible, was among those who took part in anti-submarine operations around the British task force whose main components were reported to be steaming 100 miles to the east of Port Stanley.

Even so, the Ministry of Defence in London was at some pains yesterday to emphasize that British operations were conducted only in her self-defence under Article 51 of the United Nations charter. "This is not,

repeat not, war", the official ministry spokesman said. It began to look very much like it, however, as the pace of military developments quickened following Friday night's raids on the Falklands' on small main air strip and second, smaller, minor one.

The chain of events began with the night-time bombing of Port Stanley runway by an unknown number of Vulcan bombers, apparently operating from Ascension Island and refuelled in mid-flight to enable them to fly the 7,000 mile round trip.

After the Vulcans' 1,000-pound bombs had cratered the airstrip, a second raid took place around dawn when "a substantial number" of Sea Harrier vertical short take-off aircraft from the task force were directed to finish the job.

THE Harriers, believed to be dropping BL755 cluster bombs on their low-level attacks against the airstrip, inflicted "considerable damage on surrounding military installations and stores", according to the ministry in its statement yesterday.

They then moved on to bomb the Goose Green 900ft runway further south, on the narrow isthmus which connects the northern and southern halves of East Falkland.



Lieutenant-Commander Nigel Ward, whose squadron, 801 Sea Harrier, claimed the first air "kill"

A day of tension and elation

From John Witherow on HMS Invincible

The first wave of Invincible's Harriers took off with a tremendous roar shortly before dawn, and wheeled away towards Port Stanley, many miles away to provide air cover for Harriers bombing the airstrip. The next wave followed an hour later at sunrise.

Throughout the first say of aerial bombardment and combat the Harriers were either airborne or waiting to fly.

The strain showed on the pilots' faces. Argentine fighters kept screaming in, loosing off missiles, then evading dog fights.

But in the evening tiredness turned to elation with the "splashing" of two Mirage jets and a Canberra bomber.

For the crew on HMS Invincible, it was a day when the tension was almost palpable. Before the Harriers were launched, Vulcans had bombed the airstrip. "The Vulcans have gone in and to all intents and purposes we are now at war", a flight controller said.

The harsh call to action stations came so early with the danger of each enemy coming in low from the west. But they soon veered away after testing the fleet's responses.

Such attacks continued hour after hour, with Harriers intercepting and keeping the Argentines well away from the carriers. "We are obviously putting them at full stretch", one officer said.

The crew remained calm and alert, many waiting in sealed corridors for first aid duties. On the bridge, lookouts, dressed in white anti-flash gear with only their eyes visible, scanned the horizon for visual confirmation of radar sightings.

On the flight deck gun stood beside machine guns, the last line of defence. Despite the threat of a full-scale Argentine air attack, senior officers remained calm and level, considering the danger of each enemy sortie and taking every possible precaution.

As well as the air combat, the Fleet was taking evasive measures against the threat of submarine attack. At one stage, a Harrier jet and two helicopters went to attack what they thought was a submarine on the surface near the Falkland Islands only to discover it was a rock formation.

As the unusually calm and sunny day turned to dusk the air combat continued.

US discussions on aid for British forces

From Nicholas Ashford Washington, May 2

Mr Francis Pym, the Foreign Secretary, held talks today with senior members of the Reagan Administration to see what possibilities remained for a peaceful settlement of the Falklands crisis. He discussed "in general terms" the United States offer of material support for British forces.

Mr Pym, who arrived here last night, began his discussions this morning with a meeting at the State Department with Mr Alexander Haig, the Secretary of State. This was followed by lunch with Mr Haig at the British Embassy and a meeting with Mr Caspar Weinberger, the Defence Secretary.

Mr Pym flew to New York tonight for talks with Senator Javier Perez de Cuellar, the United Nations Secretary General.

British sources made it clear that Mr Pym was not bringing with him any new proposals for a settlement to put before the Americans or at the United Nations. Although Britain did not rule out a UN role, either as a mediator or in performing a peace-keeping function of some kind, the sources emphasized that Britain would not accept any arrangement which left Argentina in possession of the islands while negotiations took place.

On his arrival Mr Pym indicated that Britain still wanted a peaceful settlement if possible but would continue to apply "an inexorable pressure upon Argentina — diplomatic, economic and military — to indicate to her quite clearly that aggression does not pay."

Mr Pym's visit to the United States was seen as a move to maintain Britain's domestic and international pressure on Argentina and to offer the Argentine junta an escape route. It was also intended as a public demonstration of thanks to the United States for deciding to support Britain.

British sources said that the United States decision to impose military and economic sanctions against Argentina and to offer military support to Britain had transformed the situation. Referring to the visit, Mr Pym made to Washington a week ago, the sources added: "Last week Mr Pym came here to negotiate with a mediator. He has come back this week to consult with an ally."

The sources insisted Mr Pym had not come with a shopping list of military items required by Britain to sustain a lengthy operation in the South Atlantic. Any British request would be discussed at official level, not by ministers. So far Britain has not made any request, although American officials believed that an appeal for help was inevitable because of the need for logistical help to support a fleet of 8,000 miles from home base.

According to American officials, yesterday's bombing raid on the islands caught President Reagan and senior members of his staff by surprise.

The President, on his way to the opening of the World Fair in Knoxville, Tennessee, told reporters he had no prior knowledge of the attack, though the Vulcan bomber involved in the first strike took off from a United States air base on Ascension Island.

The President added that he still hoped there could be a peaceful solution. "We stand ready to help," he said. Both the Americans and British have been anxious to play down speculation that the American decision to back Britain and the British attack on the Falklands were coordinated. "The British do not advise us of their military plans", a State Department spokesman said.

Meanwhile, Argentina has sent an urgent Note to the Organization of American States, reporting that Britain had launched an attack and referring to last week's OAS resolution calling for an end to hostilities.

Argentina is expected to seek new action in the OAS by the 21 countries which are signatories of the 1947 Rio collective defence treaty.

The United States and Britain want a political settlement, but Argentina "continues to be an obstacle", Mr Haig said today (Agence France-Presse reports).

After meeting for two hours with Mr Pym, Mr Haig said they wanted "a political settlement in the context of Resolution 502" which calls for total withdrawal of all forces from the islands.

UN leader works on peace plan

From Zoriana Pysariwsky New York, May 2

Mr Francis Pym, the Foreign Secretary, had a working dinner appointment tonight with Senator Javier Perez de Cuellar, the United Nations Secretary-General, to review the prospects for a United Nations role in the Falkland Islands crisis.

While Argentina, and a number of other Latin American countries, have accepted the idea of mediation by Senator Perez de Cuellar or some other form of United Nations involvement, Britain's attitude was not clear.

Perhaps the most telling example of the United Nations' enthusiasm is the fact that the so-called "brains trust" of officials who have set up contingency plans should the organization be called in to facilitate a settlement, has been working steadily under the direction of the Secretary-General throughout the weekend.

Senator Perez de Cuellar met with the president of the Security Council, Mr Ling Qing of China, and a spokesman said both men had expressed their profound concern about the heightened hostilities in the Falklands area.

Should Mr Pym ask for suggestions on how the United Nations might be able to proceed quickly to ease the tensions in the area, the Secretary-General will be able to hand him blueprints of ideas with details allowing for their immediate implementation. There is speculation that the idea of a United Nations peace-keeping force to oversee or confirm the withdrawal of Argentine forces from the Falklands is, for the moment, thought to be the world body's most viable option.

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Winter a strong ally for Argentines

Only about 900 Argentine troops are said to be stationed on West Falkland, which is why a landing there is often recommended by armchair strategists. Another argument against this, however, is that the force, once it had landed, would still need to converge on Port Stanley across tracts of wild, marshy, spitted county — and cross the sound between the two main islands.

ways out of order, "so that your enemy, if he is worth killing, that, cannot use them". He was attending a service yesterday at St Clement's, where he was the central torch of the RAF, where he was reunited with some of his wartime crews.

Wearing full uniform and all his medals, Sir Arthur referred to the young men as "my boys" and the Vulcan bombers over the Falklands as "the same breed" as those he used to command. "I am

also", he said.

Also attending yesterday's service was Sir Arthur's American counterpart during the war years, Lieutenant General James Doolittle, aged 86.

The church service was for the commemoration and dedication of the banner of the Aircrew Association, which brings together airmen, and the British and our allies, and has been in existence since 1977.

Photograph, page 10

pause for a while, pressuring the junta to the negotiating table, then — if no satisfactory response is forthcoming — land in two or more places — all of which would have been reconnoitred in advance by Special Air Service and Special Boat Service troops believed to be already in situ. By then the assault force would probably need to go to a point near Stanley. It would be time that Britain moved to the heart of the matter.

out whose flag they should fly, the tracks are already said to be presenting a challenge.

Nonetheless they are preferable to the land in between which tends either to be rocky and strewn with boulders or dotted with peat bogs into which one might sink, never to be seen again. There are mountains rising to about 2,300 ft in the north of East Falkland, where the ground is firmer — but it is

Balance of strength in the South Atlantic

The numbers are in many cases estimates because neither country is inclined at present to release more than the barest details of its military dispositions. In the case of aircraft it is hard to predict which and how many Argentine machines could be

No accurate figures have been released for the number of Argentine soldiers on the Falklands or the assault troops with the task force. Estimates of the former have recently hovered around 10,000, but this could be an

In addition the Army has sent two parachute battalions totalling about 1,200 plus supporting units and two reconnaissance troops from the Blues and Royals. The number of soldiers apart from marines has been assessed at 2,500 and one ex-marine has put the total for marines at "at least 3,000". The number altogether is probably between 5,000 and 6,000.

The Vulcan, which came into service 25 years ago, was not built for comfort. The pilot, co-pilot, navigator, signaller and radar-plotter stay where they are, like fighter pilots, unable to move around despite the long endurance involved.

The pilot would have brought down the big delta-winged bomber by a few more thousand feet on the approach to Port Stanley, to escape any radar detection until it was too late for the

By flying at that height, at night, through the low clouds of the Falklands winter, they would have had relatively little to fear from the anti-aircraft fire, or the Tigercat missiles which the Argentines would have to direct to their targets by sight, in the absence of any radar guidance.

Then the Sea Harriers swept in with their second

The tanker aircraft streams either two refuelling pipes from its wing tips or one from its tail with the "drogues" looking rather like giant badminton shuttlescocks floating in the air. The aircraft requiring fuel is equipped with a long "probe" usually mounted on the port wing which the pilot has to steer into the centre of the drogue.

Quite properly, for an aircraft of its revolutionary capabilities, its pilots are regarded as the *creme de la*

The RAF Harrier strength is believed to number about 80.

Notice is hereby given that an Extraordinary General Meeting of Members of The National Bank of Australasia Limited will be held at 33rd Floor, 500 Bourke Street, Melbourne, on Thursday, May 27, 1982, at 2.30 p.m.

To consider, and, if thought fit, to pass—

1. A Special Resolution to change the name of the Bank to National Commercial Banking Corporation of Australia Limited.
2. A Special Resolution to approve a Bill now before the Parliament of the United Kingdom, which will vest the banking undertaking of The Commercial Banking Company of Sydney Limited in the United Kingdom in the merged bank, and for other purposes.
3. An Ordinary Resolution to approve the establishment of a scheme for the making of loans by the Company to persons who are both full time employees of the Company or a related corporation and also a director of the Company or a related corporation or are related to such a director.
4. An Ordinary Resolution to approve that the directors of each corporation which is a related corporation to the Company, be authorised to establish a scheme as described in 3. above.

By Order of the Board
P.I. Cochrane, Secretary
April 22, 1982.

Proxies

A Member or other person entitled to vote may appoint not more than two proxies to attend and vote instead of him. Where more than one proxy is appointed, each proxy must be appointed to represent a specified proportion of the Member's voting rights. A proxy need not be a Member of the Company.



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The Americans air base was of considerable importance to the allied effort during the last war, but it is as a communications centre that it has been most developed in the post-war period. The Americans set up a long-range missile tracking

With no indigenous population, the 1,000 or so inhabitants mostly come from St Helena, 700 miles south-east of Ascension, which is responsible for its administration, Britain and the United States. The 500 St Helenans are all employed by

run by Washington and leased from the British Government. But under the terms of the lease, Britain is entitled to use most of its facilities and there is a small British liaison office on the base.

Until the American

The Government also clamped down on details of the comings and goings between Ascension Island

Although American embarrassment is no longer a key factor, a Ministry of Defence spokesman in London yesterday refused to discuss details of current United States military assistance

whether he would be in contact with Ministry of Defence officials over President Reagan's offer of American aid

Sources in Washington have suggested that a meeting is "a possibility"

World reaction to the fighting

Madrid and Bonn: Raids opposed

From Richard Wigg, Madrid, May 2

The Spanish Government has told Britain that any larger military action in the Falklands after yesterday's air strikes would be "a grave historic error".

It made this judgment in the light of its view that the kernel of the Falklands dispute remained "the colonial problem". It reiterated Spain's traditional position in this field.

The air strikes were condemned as "a serious escalation of the conflict". Madrid repeated that it was "absolutely opposed" to the use of force.

The official statement went on to recommend full recourse by Britain and Argentina to the United Nations Security Council, where the Spanish representative abstained in the vote on the original Resolution 502 on April 2.

In spite of Madrid's diplomatic isolation in Western Europe on the Falklands issue, the statement included regret that Madrid's efforts through bilateral contacts and international bodies to get the colonial problem seen as the basic issue had not been heeded.

The Spanish Government's latest statement is scarcely designed to facilitate the top-level negotiations with Britain over Gibraltar's future scheduled to begin on June 25. The talks have been postponed due to the Falklands situation.

Faced by a public opinion judged running strongly in favour of the blood ties with Argentina, Spain's top diplomats appear to have already

discarded or forgotten what they might get from Britain in the wake of the Falklands war in line with Madrid's reiterated commitment to resolve the Gibraltar problem only through peaceful negotiations.

Spanish diplomacy until last week struggled along with the double contradiction of opposing the use of force while having its own reason — Gibraltar — for supporting Argentina — and, secondly, though about to join Nato yet being critical of another member, Britain.

But after yesterday's statement, Madrid appears to have come down in the anti-colonial Third World camp. This is just before Señor José Pedro Pérez Llorca, the Foreign Minister, is to visit Washington to negotiate later this week the remaining details of a renewed bilateral treaty of friendship in the light of Spain's impending Nato membership.

But the United States is opposing the emotions now sweeping Hispanic America.

Although today's Spanish newspapers still give a varied treatment to Britain's air strikes, the state-controlled National Radio has now swung firmly behind Argentina. This morning's news bulletin asked "What has London to say about this aggression?" having earlier devoted 10 minutes of its 15 minute 8am bulletin to the Argentine version.

But Mingo, Spain's best cartoonist, depicts in the Madrid conservative daily, ABC two Spaniards conversing with one maintaining: "I don't see why if Argentina

claims the Malvinas (Falklands) Spain shouldn't claim Argentina?"

But the contradictions in Spain are not solely at the diplomatic level. At the May Day parade here yesterday, Socialist and Communist-led trade unionists expressed support for Argentina while calling for exemplary sentences at Spain's coup trial in order to prevent a future military take-over.

□ Bonn: West Germany's support for Britain over the Falklands dispute cooled distinctly with the news of the British attack on the airfield at Port Stanley (Patricia Clough writes).

In a stiff communiqué after the attack, the Government demanded that despite the intervening events all efforts for a peaceful solution of the conflict must be made.

Although West Germany's support for the United Nations Security Council Resolution 502 calling for an Argentine withdrawal was repeated, expressions of solidarity with Britain, which have formed the basis of all statements to far, were noticeably missing.

Government officials did not deny a report in Der Spiegel, the news magazine, that Helmut Schmidt, the Chancellor, regards the Falklands operation as anachronistic and a danger to international relations. A close aide of the Chancellor is quoted in the magazine as calling it "a troubling mission with nineteenth century methods".

Contrary to official statements, Der Spiegel claimed that the Chancellor doubted

that Mrs Thatcher really wanted to avoid a fight and told his Cabinet last Wednesday there would be no blank cheque of West German support.

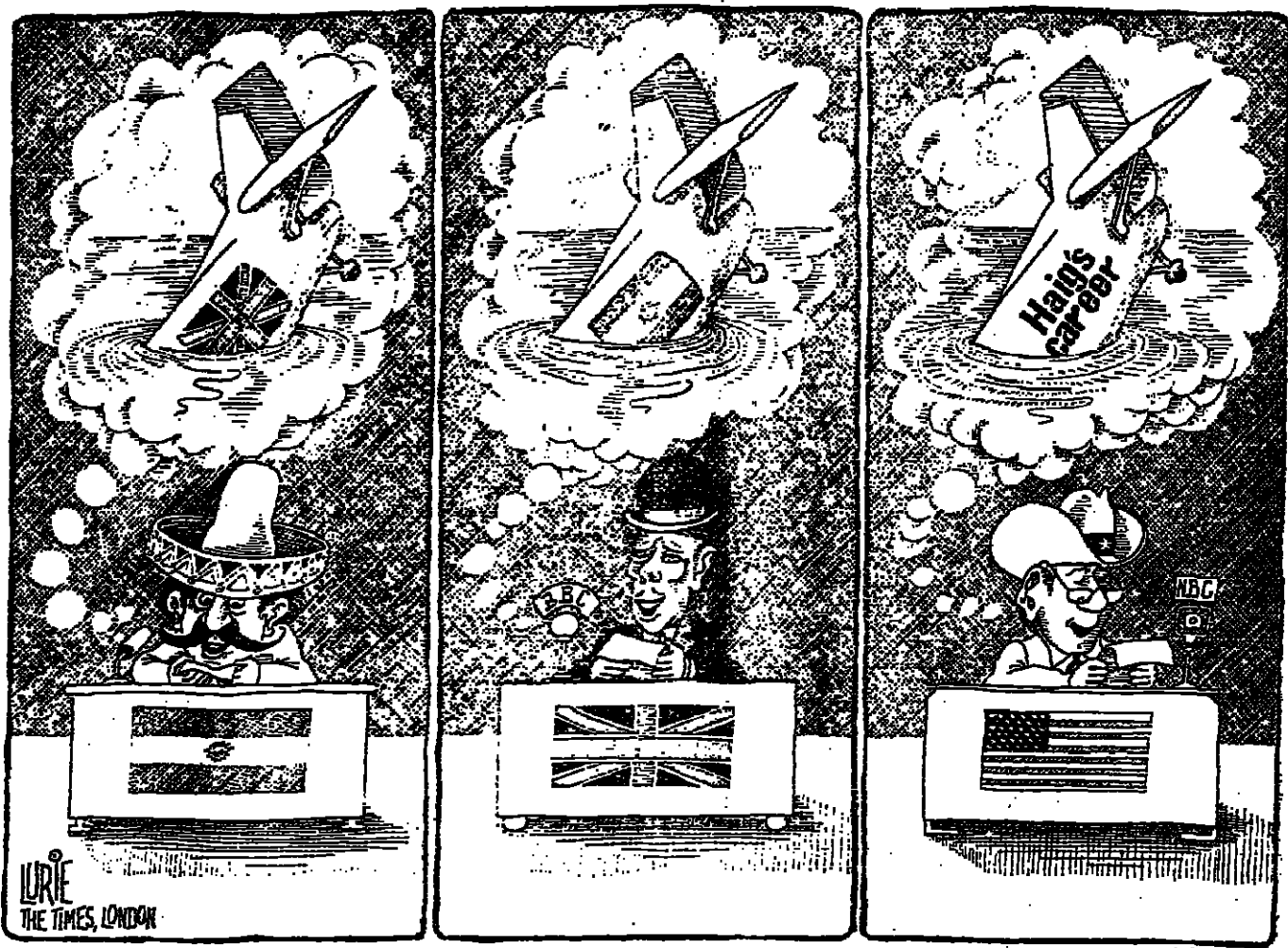
The West Germans fear that a war over the Falklands would increase East-West tension and spoil the traditionally good relations between Europe and South America. They are also concerned that support for a military solution to a colonial conflict would destroy the credibility of West Germany's policy of encouraging self-determination among Third World countries.

So West Germany has adhered firmly to the European Community decision to back Britain and has joined in the trade embargo against Argentina at considerable sacrifice to itself.

During a telephone conversation on Thursday the Chancellor encouraged Mrs Thatcher to seek a political solution. There was no immediate indication whether Mrs Thatcher's refusal to respond to European solidarity with a more accommodating approach to EEC budget and agricultural issues has helped cool off the West German support. But her unyielding, not to say ungrateful attitude has clearly displeased the West Germans.

Officials here emphasized that Bonn is not attempting to link the two issues and insist that the policy over the Falklands must be decided on its own merits.

But they added: "The question must inevitably come up in a wider examination of Britain's attitude to Europe".



Governor applauds assault

The blitz on Port Stanley airfield and the naval bombardment of the Falklands Islands should persuade President Galtieri to return to the negotiating table, Mr Rex Hunt, the island's Governor, said yesterday.

Speaking as his family prepared to celebrate his daughter's twenty-first birthday, Mr Hunt said: "I am naturally pleased at what looks like a very good professional job, well done. I was delighted when South Georgia was retaken with no fatal casualties. Then the attack on the airfield at Port Stanley was the next logical step."

But there was one worry for the Governor: "My Cessna Skyhawk was sitting beside the main hangar at the airport. The bombers have destroyed it and I am sure the insurance won't cover its replacement," he said.

He hoped this attack may convince the Argentine president that the best thing to do now is to withdraw his troops and come to the negotiating table.

Mr Hunt said that information from the latest batch of evacuees who arrived in London on Thursday indicated that more islanders remained in Port Stanley than was at first thought. About 400 remained there with a further 1,200 in the sparsely populated countryside around.

Most of the evacuees have been expatriates, not native islanders, he said. "I think those who remain will be frightened but the airport is far enough away from Stanley for there to be no danger to the town."

Asked if escalating the assault, possibly to an invasion, would threaten the civilian population, Mr Hunt said: "There are many ways to re-taking the islands. There is no need for a frontal assault on Port Stanley like the one carried out when the Argentines arrived."

"There are many ways of proceeding from here. Every step so far has been taken carefully and logically and now there are still plenty of options open."

W Africa lends friendly hand

From Godfrey Morrison, Banjul, May 2

The cordial relations enjoyed by London with the West African States of The Gambia and Senegal are proving very useful for the British task force in the South Atlantic.

In recent days there has been a steady stream of RAF and Royal Navy aircraft making refuelling stop-overs here on their way to the Ascension Island base, then to the airfield at Yoff, outside Dakar, the Senegalese capital, and Yundum, The Gambia's international airport.

The Gambia, a former British colony, for whom Britain remains the main provider of economic assistance, and French-speaking Senegal have been linked in the Senegambian confederation since February. Both governments have issued statements strongly critical of Argentina's invasion of the Falklands.

A glance at the map shows how Yundum and Yoff, Africa's westernmost airfields — make ideal staging posts between Britain and Ascension. Aircraft seen at

Yundum in recent days have included RAF VC10 and Hercules transport aircraft, Victor tanker aircraft, and Harrier jump jets, four of which left yesterday, presumably as part of the reinforcements being sent to the task force. Two more Harriers were seen at Yundum last night.

Both airfields have now run very low on aviation fuel as a result of the RAF flights, according to an informed source.

Senegal, another West African country, also cooperated with Britain when the requisitioned P and O liner Canberra called at Freetown on its way to join the task force.

African support for Britain is due to a number of factors. Not only is the Argentine Government seen by Africans as a repressive military dictatorship but as one which has these relations with the South Africans.

African leaders, though they differ on many issues, are unanimous in condemning the use of force in territorial disputes. A funda-

mental principle of the Organization of African Unity is respect for the frontiers inherited from the colonial era. This is paradoxically, to the fact that these frontiers are often completely artificial, flying in the face of geographical and ethnic loyalties.

Because of this African leaders know that once the principle of forcible annexation of territory is condoned a whole Pandora's Box of strife will be opened on this continent. They are also conscious that many of the continent's smaller states are indefensible against a determined aggressor.

African support for Britain will certainly have been stiffened by the very strong pro-London statement by Mr Shridath Ramphal, Commonwealth Secretary-General.

□ Freetown: A Falklands-bound British merchant ship loaded with helicopters and jet aircraft stopped in this West African port today to refuel and take on water. (AP reports).

Moscow: 'Hypocrisy' of United States

By Our Foreign Staff

The Soviet Union has stepped up its attacks on Britain's Falklands policy and accused the United States of "sheer hypocrisy" in its role of mediator. The imposition of sanctions showed this.

In a report from Washington, Tass said that Mr Alexander Haig's mission had only served to help Britain gain time to establish a military blockade around the Falklands. The purpose was to consolidate British and American interests in the South Atlantic.

Moscow radio's English-language service accused Britain of sacrificing the interests of international security to "imperial ambitions". Mrs Thatcher's Government was "trying to restore the status of a British colony to the Falklands by force. But the times when the sun never sets on the British empire have long gone", a broadcast monitored in London declared.

It claimed that Britain was "threatening a Latin American country whose behaviour is not to the liking of neo-colonialists." "Britain had gone from threats to aggression after Washington had come out in its support."

The Latin American country with the closest links with the Soviet Union, Cuba, said: "The nations of Latin America are duty bound to support Argentina with all the means that might be necessary. Cuba was ready to fulfil that obligation, a Government statement said in Havana."

This did not, however, spell out what "all means" was intended to convey. The Cuban statement denounced American support for Britain in the crisis, adding: "It is necessary to stop the aggression and impose law. The cause of the Malvinas (Falklands) is the cause of the Argentine people and

therefore the cause of Latin America and the Caribbean — our cause."

Venezuela, a state with its own unsatisfied territorial claims and one of the strongest South American supporters of Argentina, has sharply attacked Washington for coming out on the side of Britain.

Señor Alberto Zambrano, the Foreign Minister, said the United States action broke inter-American solidarity and would certainly affect the future of relations between American states. "Washington's move could 'stimulate aggression and eliminate the effects of its previous peaceful mediation', he said in a statement read over television and radio.

President Luis Herrera Campins of Venezuela also told reporters: "We believe that all Latin America condemns the United Kingdom's aggression, its armed forces and its offensive in the South Atlantic."

Ecuador and Honduras also came out strongly

against the British attack on the airfield at Port Stanley.

Señor Luis Valencia Rodríguez, the Ecuadorian Foreign Minister, said this was an attempt "to maintain colonialism which places the peace and security of the American continent and the world in danger."

But Brazil, the most powerful nation in South America, adopted a much more diplomatic tone. A statement issued after President Joao Baptista Figueiredo had met his chiefs of staff and other officials said that Brazil "cannot help but be in disagreement with the air attack on the Falklands."

This "characterizes a violation of the first paragraph of Security Council Resolution 502". But a Foreign Ministry spokesman said that Brazil's position was to continue to work for a negotiated solution and avoid a worsening of the conflict between two countries which Brazil regarded equally as friends.

The United Nations should act without delay to achieve a

negotiated settlement, the Brazilian statement said.

Japan has cast away the neutral position it had held and joined the West European countries to exercise economic sanctions against Argentina. The Government announced that Japan would follow the European Community in its anti-Argentine economic measures.

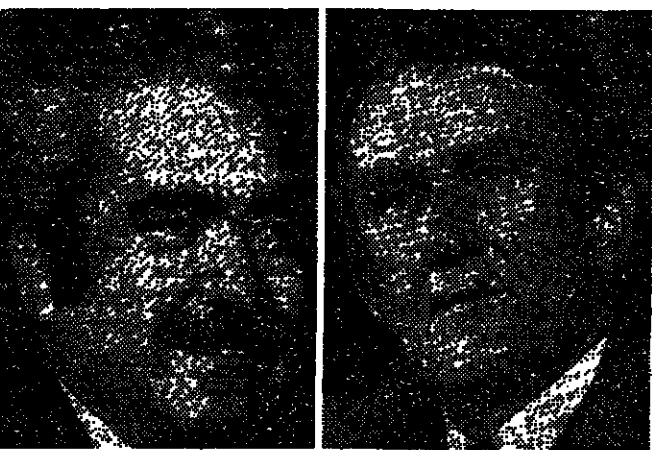
The statement said that Japanese imports from Argentina would be restricted, but not the extent of affecting the trade relationship between the two countries, and that the Government would restrain provision of government-based new credit facilities.

While the measures are mild and will not carry any substantial effect in its trade relationship with Argentina, its second largest trade partner in Central and South America, the Japanese decision to commit itself to Britain has been inspired by the new American decision to side with London.

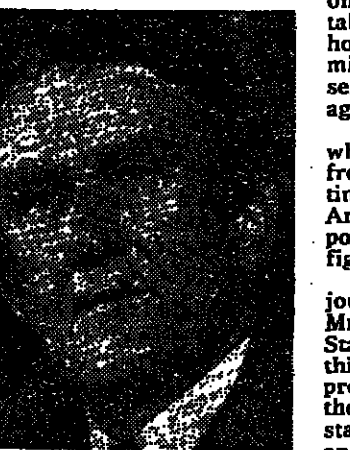
Mr Malcolm Fraser, the Prime Minister of Australia, described the British attack on the Falklands as "inevitable". He said: "We must hope that even at this last minute, Argentina will see sense and end her aggression against the Falklands."

"It was inevitable, from what Britain has said and from the position that Argentina has taken, that if the Argentine maintained their position, there would be fighting."

He was speaking to journalists after a dinner for Mr George Bush, the United States Vice-President. During this Mr Bush broke off a prepared speech to say that the United States "must stand behind our old friend and ally, Great Britain". His comment came after news of the British attack on the Port Stanley airfield. Mr Fraser led a standing ovation



President Campins: "All Latin America condemns".



Mr Fraser: "Fighting was inevitable".

The churches: Armed force is justified

By Clifford Longley, Religious Affairs Correspondent

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, yesterday gave his clear support for the latest British action over the Falkland Islands. At the same time the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Liverpool, Mr Derek Worlock, appeared to rule out any possibility of the Pope's visit to Britain later this month being cancelled or postponed.

Dr Runcie had just returned from Nigeria, and Mr Worlock from Rome, where he had talked to the Pope and to senior Vatican officials.

"There are those who believe that the task force should not have been sent to defend the Falkland Islands from the Argentine aggression by the Argentine government," Dr Runcie said in a statement issued from Canterbury.

"I do not hold with that opinion as I said in the House of Lords debate two weeks ago, and believe that within the complexities of an imperfect world, self-defence and the use of armed force in defence of clear principles can sometimes be justified."

He repeated his call for prayers for all parties concerned, including the Argentines, and emphasized the need to search for a peaceful solution as a result of the British efforts at the United Nations. Action must never be inspired by feelings of

revenge or recrimination, he added.

Mr Worlock, who also urged prayers, said that during his visit to Rome he had been convinced no decision had been taken to cancel or postpone the Pope's visit, nor was such a decision under active consideration.

He also said on the archbishop's behalf that he had found officials in the Vatican surprised there had been suggestions made in Britain that the visit might not go ahead because of the Falklands crisis.

Senior officials in the Vatican Secretariat of State said they did not understand the reasons for these suggestions.

Prayers for the task force and for a peaceful solution were said in church services all over the country yesterday, and the crisis dominated two occasions in particular.

In Liverpool Cathedral, the large congregation of servicemen and ex-servicemen took part in the annual commemoration of the Battle of the Atlantic of the Second World War, followed by a march past.

new enshrined in international law, showed it was possible to distinguish occasions on which force was legitimate.

"No one must pretend that war is other than horrible and bloody, nor must we pretend that it is easy to discern when it is justified," he said. "It is our duty as human beings made in the image of God to recognize the difference, and have the resolution to act upon it."

Dr John Robinson, Assistant Bishop of Southwark, attacked the Christian leaders of Britain for not standing up against the use of force in the Falkland Islands dispute, calling it "one more example in which Christians have nothing to say. I think we shall look

back with shame on this business."

□ Rome: The Pope yesterday issued a strong appeal for a solution of the Falklands conflict (see page 1). Speaking to some 60,000 people gathered in St Peter's Square for the Angelus, he described the situation as "painful and worrying" because of the loss in human lives so far with the likelihood of more to come, as well as the growing abyss between Argentina and Britain.

He addressed his appeals to recognize their responsibilities not only to the two nations directly involved, but also to the countries supporting them and to the international community as a whole.

Further report, page 10

Foot: Was it right?

The following is the text of Mr Michael Foot's statement on the Falklands: British servicemen have been ordered into action and the country is naturally concerned at one for their success and for their safety, they are acting to defeat the aggressor who set this in motion. However, some political questions are unavoidable: the most obvious being: was it necessary, or wise, or right, to give these orders from Downing Street before the Foreign Secretary had consulted the Secretary General of the United Nations in New York?

And whatever the judgment of this aspect of the matter, it is at the United Nations — as we have said consistently from the beginning, and as I have underlined afresh in the House of Commons last Thursday — that the diplomatic solution of the crisis to which we are all pledged must be sought urgently and strenuously than ever.

We shall certainly press this and kindred questions of a serious character in the House of Commons, where of course the Government must account for its actions.

Rules of war breached by both sides

By Nicholas Timmins

Both Britain and Argentina appear to be in contravention of the conventions on the laws of war, international lawyers said yesterday, while the Ministry of Defence is understood to have changed its legal advice to Mrs Thatcher, arguing now that the prisoners taken during the Falklands action so far are indeed prisoners of war.

In the House of Commons on Monday, Mrs Thatcher said of the marines taken on South Georgia: "Those prisoners are not prisoners of war. A state of war does not exist between ourselves and the Argentine."

That statement was based on an instant view given by Ministry of Defence lawyers, it is understood, who now acknowledge that the Geneva Convention provides that their provisions on prisoners of war become applicable in armed conflict, even if a state of war is not recognized by one of the parties.

A public acknowledgement, however, that the Geneva Convention applies, would appear to put Britain in the wrong by sending back to the Falklands the British marines originally captured in its defence. Article 117 of Geneva Convention III states that no repatriated person may be employed on active military service.

Public acknowledgement of the Geneva Convention being in force would, however, provide some protection for the Falkland Islanders. Mr Reginald Austin, senior lec-

turer in international law at University College London, said yesterday that Mrs Thatcher's statement was "crazy".

"It exposes the Falkland Islanders to a dreadful situation," he said.

"If there is any suggestion that the convention does not apply, then all the very carefully constructed protection of civilians in the convention would not then be applicable."

That included provisions against taking civilian hostages — a fear expressed both by the relatives of Falkland Islanders in Britain and over the British community in Argentina.

"I can only assume," Mr Austin said, "that she did not want to use the word war because she might be described as being a warmonger."

The convention, however, immediately the factual circumstances of armed conflict arose. The military, by setting up a board of inquiry into the death of an Argentine prisoner on South Georgia, appeared to be acknowledging that the convention applied, he said.

Complaints rouse Israelis

From Moshe Brilliant, Tel Aviv, May 2

The Israeli media this weekend accused Britain of duplicity for complaining of Israeli arms sales to Argentina when London had armed Arab countries dedicated to the eradication of the Jewish state.

Moreover, editorials pointed out that Britain itself had equipped a substantial part of the Argentine armed forces.

Haaretz said Britain had not been deterred by infringements of civil rights in Argentina and had allowed economic considerations to prevail until the seizure of the Falkland Islands.

The editorial confirmed that Israel had sold warships to Argentina, but said the engines were American, the radar British, and other systems came from a dozen other countries, so it was impertinent to single out Israel for criticism.

Haaretz said the supply of British Chieftain tanks to Jordan for the establishment of modern armoured divisions had endangered Israel, and Maariv said that until the Russians appeared on the scene, Britain had been the Arab chief arms supplier.

"Israel fought for its survival and for the lives of its citizens," the Maariv editorial said. "Britain is not fighting for its existence. Its citizens are not endangered by the Argentine capture of the Falkland Islands. It is a prestige war."

First casualty of battle

Ian Britnell, aged 20, a gunner, serving with the frigate Arrow, was the first British casualty of the Falklands battle. He was hit by shrapnel in the chest and will be flown home when he has recovered from an operation.



Repayment of debts may cease

From Nicholas Hirst, New York, May 2

Bankers here are concerned that if the Falklands dispute worsens Argentina could put a moratorium on repayments on its debts to American lenders.

Argentina reacted to Britain's decision to freeze all its assets in the United Kingdom by ending all payments to British accounts. It was understood that an "escrow" account had been opened in the New York branch of Banco de la Nacion, Argentina's Central Bank, where interest and repayments would be built up for payment in the future, but some bankers here have doubts that it exists.

The concern of the American bankers now is that if the largely symbolic American sanctions instituted in support of Britain are toughened with an increase in hostilities, interests and debt repayments of the \$9,200m (about \$1,000m) lent by American banks to Argentina will cease.

It is estimated that against the Argentine debt American banks hold only \$3,350m in Argentine deposits of which \$550m is held in the United States itself and the remainder in foreign branches.

A decision to impose a moratorium, however, could hurt Argentina badly. The country depends heavily on foreign credit of finance imports which amounted to \$1,700m in the first three months of the year.

Refusal to make payments to Britain nevertheless have already caused great confusion and disarray in international markets.

Lloyds Bank is reported to have refused to accept the concept of an escrow account under the Act, 1979, and is demanding that payments be made by groups including Lloyds should be shared by all parties.

The repercussions on the international banking scene of the Falklands crisis are increasingly serious.

Argentina's economy was in bad shape before the dispute started with inflation running near 150 per cent. It has more than \$30,000m in foreign debt with an estimated \$12,300m due for repayment to banks in industrialized countries this year.

□ Geneva: With movement of funds into Swiss banks as always during an acute international crisis — likely to speed up as a result of the Falklands hostilities — the National Bank will exercise close surveillance of the foreign exchange market this week ready to intervene if the franc goes too far (see page 1).

(Alan McGregor writes)

'Death-wish' of young unemployed

The experience of unemployment is so depressing young people that more than a quarter have considered committing suicide, according to a survey. The figures show that 34 per cent of those aged between 16 and 25 experience depression when they have been out of work for more than six months, and 26 per cent have thought of taking their lives. (Pat Healey writes).

Mr. Leslie Francis, research fellow at the London Central Mental Hospital, says the results are not clear enough to define whether unemployment causes depression or whether people predisposed to depression are more vulnerable to unemployment.

However, the figures do underline the special vulnerability of the unemployed, he says, in the *Unemployment Unit Bulletin*.

The survey indicates, for example, that the unemployed are more likely to need counselling and the resources of the health service to deal with their depression and suicidal thoughts.

New paper loses 250,000 copies

The Mail on Sunday, Britain's first national Sunday newspaper for 21 years, lost more than a quarter of a million copies because of production difficulties during its launch on Saturday night (a Staff Reporter writes).

Parts of the Midlands and the Home Counties were short of copies after the print run fell short of the two million target. A new routine for print workers was said to be partly to blame for the "teething troubles". Mr. David Kirby, the newspaper's general manager, said the difficulties would be overcome by next Sunday.

20 windsurfers rescued in gale

Twenty windsurfers were rescued from the North Sea yesterday after a race went ahead in spite of coastguard warnings of gales. The surfers were picked up about a mile off Tynemouth, Tyne and Wear.

The decision to go ahead was defended by Mr. David Hudson, the Tynemouth Club's sailboard captain, who said: "We have an excellent safety record here and all the competitors were properly dressed and wore buoyancy aids."

Stabbing appeal

The police have complained of a poor response to an appeal for witnesses to the stabbing on Saturday of Mr. John Dickinson, aged 24, outside Arsenal's football ground in Highbury, north London. Mr. Dickinson, of Wylly Estate, Vauxhall, South London, was chased by a gang of youths and left to die in the gutter.

"We need help," page 11

Hunt for boys

A search of the coastline in Mounts Bay and Penzance harbour in Cornwall, yesterday failed to find three Penzance boys, a spin of a blifid victim who disappeared from their homes on Friday night. They were last seen near the harbour.

Heart man dies

Mr. Ernest Field, one of Britain's longest surviving heart transplant patients died yesterday. Mr. Field, aged 52, of Chertsey, Surrey, received his new heart at Harefield Hospital, west London, two years ago after he was forced to give up his job as manager of a timber yard.

Drugs warning

Three of every four people who took drugs for hay fever last year flouted warnings not to drive, according to a survey of 1,210 households by the Markon medical research agency. The Automobile Association said such drivers risked losing their licence and might not be insured.

Agents' law

Estate agents convicted of racial or sexual discrimination, fraud or violence can be prohibited from practising under the Estate Agents Act, 1979, which comes into force today. The Director General of Fair Trading can bar any agent who has contravened the Act.

Murder charge

A man has been charged with the murder of Mrs. Susan Neil, whose body was found in her army home in Aldershot last Thursday. He is expected to appear before Aldershot magistrates today. The police have not released his name.

Plant danger

Sheffield home safety department is issuing 5,000 leaflets warning of poisons in some house plants. Popular plants with sap which can cause sickness and death include the leopard lily, poinsettia, winter cherry, hyacinth, primula and nerium oleander.

Government may merge job aid schemes

By Donald Macintyre, Labour Correspondent

The Government is considering an important change to its controversial £150m scheme aimed at helping the long-term unemployed to counter fierce opposition from the TUC and other quarters.

Ministers seem likely to agree to merge the proposed Community Work Scheme — unveiled by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in his Budget speech and strongly opposed by union leaders — as a prospective source of cheap labour for employers, with the present Community Enterprise Programme (CEP) which provides 30,000 places a year for unemployed people.

But although MSC officials of the Manpower Services Commission have been arguing that such a merger provides the best hope of winning the support of unions, local authorities and voluntary organizations, it now seems certain that the commission will not meet the provisional deadline of Mr. Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Employment. An internal MSC paper says that "major problems" remain in devising a new scheme.

Mr. Tebbit hinted to the Commons Select Committee on Employment last week that he would be prepared to consider a possible merger. He argued that the new Community Work Scheme would pay unemployed people expenses of about £15 a week after National Insurance deductions and unemployment benefit for doing socially useful work, had been preferred to an expansion of CEP because it would help more people.

The commission originally sought an expansion of CEP to provide 60,000 places a year while the new scheme would assist 100,000 adults a year.

Take riot proposals as package, Scarman says

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Lord Scarman has criticized attitudes by civil servants and politicians to his report on the Brixton riots. He told a conference in London on Saturday that he deprecated their attempts to break up his package of proposals. The package was intended to be considered as a whole, he said. "Its purpose was to enable police attitudes to be changed so that in the context of an inner-city area, they could be brought more in line with historic British policing principles".

However, his proposals were being looked at separately as though one could be implemented and not another. Lord Scarman told the conference that it was vital to remember of the Brixton riots that they were anti-police. Everything a policeman did, had at the end of the day to be not only within the law but socially acceptable.

Improved training of young policemen had to be looked at in company with the need for consultation and accountability. It was essential that the requirement for consultation between the police and the community should be statutory. However there was much hesitation among those responsible for the police and legislation as to whether or not to accept the recommendation.

Lord Scarman's audience included police chiefs, black people, academics and community workers. Referring to constabulary, Sir Philip Knights, Chief Constable of the West Midlands said that although he accepted that some change in the law might be desirable, he questioned whether it was really necessary. All that was needed was a commitment on everyone's part to get on with it.

It was vital to the impartiality of the police that they retained their independence on operational matters. However police judgements would be improved by a much greater awareness of what communities wanted, by a greater sensitivity to their difficulties, greater recognition of their fears and a realization of how they felt about the service they were getting.

It was right that communities should have the opportunity to question the police about how that service was being delivered.

Keeping in the picture

Alminda Horwood, who is working against time at the National Film Archives, Aston Clinton, Buckinghamshire, to try to save Britain's irreplaceable stock of films, which are fast decaying. (Christopher Warman writes). The British Film Institute, where she is senior repairer, has begun a programme to copy its decaying nitrate films on to acetate by the year 2000. It estimates it needs an extra £700,000 a year to complete it.

The National Heritage Memorial Fund has given £100,000 for 1982. Among the films to be given emergency treatment is *London Town*, made in 1946, the first large-scale Technicolor British musical, starring Sid Field. Others include the unseen silent version of Hitchcock's *Blackmail* (1929).



'Telegraph' rebuked on pill report

A complaint that *The Daily Telegraph* published an alarmist headline, unbalanced misleading and unbalanced report about contraception and cancer has been upheld by the Press Council. The council, nevertheless, rejected suggestions of deliberate distortion and editorial prejudice.

Under the headline "Girls on pill face higher cancer risks", David Fletcher, health services correspondent, reported that a medical study said girls taking contraceptive pills in their teens might face an increased risk of breast cancer later. The study, by the Royal College of General Practitioners, largely cleared the pill of causing breast cancer in women who began taking it after their first child, but found a small increase in risk to those who had used oral

contraceptives.

Mr. Arthur V. Risdon of Christchurch Road, Winchester, Hampshire, wrote to Dr. Clifford Kay, in charge of the study, who replied that the headline reached by Mr. Risdon was irresponsible reporting.

Mr. Fletcher said he did not write the headline. He acknowledged it lacked the "may" from his first sentence, but felt it was saved by the inverted commas.

The judgement was: In the Press Council's view, the newspaper's short report of a long medical study did not succeed in presenting a balanced picture of the conclusions reached in the Royal College of General Practitioners' survey. That lack of balance was compounded by the alarmist flavor of the headline and its misleading impression created. The council, however, rejected suggestions of deliberate distortion and editorial prejudice.

on the part of the newspaper and its editor, which at one time formed part of the complainant's case.

□ A Sunday Express apology for a significant inaccuracy and omissions in a comment about a fireworks display was totally inadequate, the Press Council said. It upheld a complaint by Mr. L. W. Stephens, of Buxton Road, Eastbourne, East Sussex.

Ann Edwards, in her column had said an example of council oversteering which took the biscuit was a fireworks display organized by Lewisham Council, London, on the theme Parliament in Flames.

The newspaper published a correction and apology saying Lewisham Council's only interest was in allowing a private body to organize and pay for a display on a council open space.



Heading for the open road: A 1930 Morris L2 van and five-ton Foden dropside truck from 1929 lining up at Battersea Park for the start of the Historic Commercial Vehicle Club's London to Brighton run yesterday.

NHS faces tougher pay action

By Our Labour Correspondent

The prospects of severe disruption in hospitals will increase this week when the National Union of Public Employees announces that most of its 300,000 health service members have voted for industrial action.

Full results of the union's ballot have not been collated, but returns from most of its 20 health service areas were said last night to show an "overwhelming" vote for rejecting the pay offer to a million NHS staff ranging from 4 per cent to ancillary workers to 6.4 per cent for nurses.

The union's executive will meet on Thursday to consider the results and decide what forms of industrial action to put to a meeting of the TUC Health Services Committee on May 10.

The Confederation of Health Service Employees which began action ahead of other health service unions last Tuesday estimates that more than 100 hospitals have been refusing non-emergency admissions and that half of its 500 branches had taken part in industrial action.

Mr. Ronald Keating, assistant general secretary of the National Union of Public Employees, said yesterday that he believed that unless the Government changed its view it could rapidly get to a point at which the hospital service was reduced to accident and emergency cases.

A last-minute flurry of peace moves before health service unions embark on a joint industrial action was not ruled out last night.

□ Strong backing for the campaign of industrial action in the dispute was pledged yesterday by the annual conference of the Wales TUC (the Press Association reports). Delegates in Llandudno approved an emergency motion calling on all unions to give full support to the pay claim, with any industrial action coordinated by the Wales TUC.

Death grant plan attacked

By Pat Healy, Social Services Correspondent

Government proposals to withdraw national insurance death grant from most people in favour of a much higher grant after a means test for some come under renewed attack today.

The Southwark Pensioners' Action Group says the proposals are a "deadly blow" to many elderly people, while the leader of Sheffield welfare rights committee says they are "disgraceful".

The Southwark group, which has been campaigning for the death grant to be restored to its original level set in 1949, points out that a basic funeral now costs about £450. The £30 standard death grant, set in 1967, is causing considerable hardship on elderly people who will continue to suffer if the government proposals are implemented.

Mr. Matthew Morris, the group's secretary, says in a statement today: "The Government must not be allowed to get away with this. They say it will bring greater

help, but in fact they are taking money away.

The Government proposals, outlined in a Green Paper in March, suggest three options for increasing the death grant for the worst off at no extra cost. Instead of the present system of a standard grant of £30, lower amounts for some age groups, and nothing for those too old when the national insurance system was introduced, the Green Paper proposes three levels of grant covering various groups of people receiving some form of state assistance.

The proposals would mean that 65,000 people would become entitled to a £250 death grant, or 90,000 to a £200 death grant, or 125,000 would get £150. Those figures compare with the present 630,000 people receiving death grant each year, of whom 510,000 get the full £30.

Mr. Alan Wigfield, chairman of the welfare rights subcommittee of Sheffield City Council, says the pro-

posals are a cruel insult. A death in the family causes severe stress as well as putting people to great expense, he says. Many who might qualify would be deterred by the means test.

"The staggering inhumanity of this proposal shows just how far the present Government is prepared to go in its attack on the welfare state," he says. "A means test is the last thing people want at a time of bereavement."

Mr. Wigfield is to propose to his committee that a death grant of £200 should be paid for each death. The Southwark group is calling on local people to oppose the Government's proposals by protesting to Mr. Hugh Rossi, Minister of State for Social Security.

Gunman sought

About 25 armed police in west Yorkshire were searching yesterday for a man who fired a shotgun in the centre of Morley, near Leeds, during the night, damaging windows and a church door.

Benefit appeal priority criticized

By Frances Gibb

The Lord Chancellor's Office has disclosed that the Social Security Commission operates a priority system which means that supplementary benefit appeals from government benefit officers being heard faster than appeals from claimants.

The Lord Chancellor's Office has admitted that such a priority system is in place. It says it is a letter to the Child Poverty Action Group "It is perfectly true that the commissioners have given priority to such applications and appeals in the past, but it may do so again in the future".

The Group had complained of excessive delays in handling applications to appeal against rulings made by supplementary benefit appeal tribunals. The Lord Chancellor's Office explains that it had

been decided by Mr. Islywn Owen Griffiths, QC, the chief commissioner, when he took office last May that priority should be given to those cases which were likely to be used in reports which form a body of case law. Those were mostly to be appeals by benefit officers.

The letter says it is rare for benefit officers to appeal on a point of law unless it is one of particular importance, likely to be reportable. An official from the Lord Chancellor's Office said, however, that if an appeal from a claimant involved general principles, the same considerations would apply.

The letter also discloses that a backlog of more than 300 applications for leave to appeal on benefit rulings has been built up in just one week in March after a special

survey by the chief commissioner. The survey was undertaken because of complaints of delays by the Child Action Group.

Mr. Roger Smith, the group's legal adviser, said the group was extremely concerned about the disclosure of the criteria which favour benefit officer appeals and which "raise serious doubts as to whether justice is being done and being seen to be done".

He called for such criteria to be published, to be modified so that equal weight was given to hardship as well as the Government's administrative needs, and for a chance for both parties in an appeal to ask for expedited hearings by way of an explicit mention of that right, in the appeal papers.

Doubling of fares will hit LT services

By Rupert Morris

London Transport and the Greater London Council, whose cheap fares policy was declared illegal by the Law Lords, believe that the doubling of fares five weeks ago will not compensate for the loss of custom. They estimate 250 million passenger journeys a year will be lost.

London Transport expect an extra £150m in revenue in 1982, equivalent to £204m in a full year, but will still be losing money. The Law Lords ruling that it must aim to break even makes the closure of some bus routes and a reduction in the number of tube trains inevitable. By July, at least 20 miles of road will no longer be served by bus, the GLC says.

Underground passenger traffic has already declined by 10 per cent and bus traffic by 20 per cent, according to London Transport, which expects its average six million passengers a year to decline to five million.

Of course lost passengers, 20 per cent are expected to go by car or motor cycle, 40 per cent to walk or bicycle, 10 per cent to go by British Rail, 10 per cent by taxi and 20 per cent not to travel.

The GLC's cycling project team already has the results of the survey conducted in April 1981, showing cycle traffic in April 22 per cent up on the same time last year.

"We know that people are drifting away from London Transport," Mr. David Wetzel, the GLC's transport committee chairman, says. "Some are trapped at home, because they cannot afford to travel, others are walking, cycling or using cars and motorbikes. Traffic has increased by about 2 per cent, and journey time by about 8 per cent."

The GLC claims that increased traffic accidents will cost between £22m and £32m a year and could lead to between 30 and 40 deaths on London roads. The Automobile Association, however, said it was not aware of any significant increase in traffic, except for the first week after the fares increase.

Mr. Wetzel said the GLC would go "flat out" to improve conditions for cyclists and pedestrians. The cycling project team, which has four full-time staff employed elsewhere in the council, is looking at various schemes including cycle ways, possibly underground. London's first bicycle traffic lights to help cyclists cross the Bayswater Road into Hyde Park are to begin operating within the next two months, having cost £85,000 of which the Ministry of Transport is contributing £56,000. The GLC is also anxious to improve ground-level pedestrian crossings.

Taxi drivers were thought to have gained some immediate benefit from people who found starting a cab at least as cheap as more convenient than paying for higher fares on public transport, but the Licensed Taxi Driver Association reported trade "rather quiet" and said there had been no appreciable increase.

More Home News, page 10

Fringe parties extend the voters' choice

By David Walker, Local Government Correspondent

"All local councils throughout the land are hopelessly in debt. Some have to devote more than 50 per cent of their annual income to servicing debts. We would stop councils borrowing from usurers. We would create a municipal bank which would offer council loans and in some cases no-interest loans for sensible projects."

That vaguely socialist-sounding appeal is coming from about one hundred candidates standing for councils in London and some of the big cities. The give-away word is "usurer": the party from which it comes is the National Front, much depleted in strength thanks to continuing internecine battles on the far right, but still an important political force.

The National Front is one of several fringe political parties contesting the local government elections. Like the Communist Party, the Ecology Party, and the Workers' Revolutionary Party, its chances of electing even a single candidate are slim. Yet these fringe parties, together with ubiquitous independents and single-issue candidates representing tenants' associations, the Save London Action Group or Handsworth People Against Education Cuts, do at least extend the range of democratic choice and allow electors to put the appeals of the major parties in some perspective.

The National Front's candidates are visible only in areas where there is a non-white population: in Hackney, Tower Hamlets, Lambeth, for instance.

Elsewhere, for example, in the Chase Cross ward in Havering, east London, the

LOCAL ELECTIONS

party appears to have put up candidates only because one of the other candidates is black — and he happens to be a Tory.

Its appeal is overtly racist, suggesting that councilists might economize by ceasing to subsidize community relations bodies. It labels the Social Democrat and Liberal Alliance as no different from the other main parties in supporting immigration and positive discrimination.

The Alliance is the target of criticism by the Communists, who are fielding about 150 candidates, half of them in London. According to a party broadsheet, "once in power, they would run our councils and our lives along the same old lines."

On a softer note, the Ecology Party has 150 candidates, a third of them standing for London councils. It claims that environmental campaigns reflect "widespread commitment to eco-politics".

Many areas have candidates standing on behalf of the ratepayers: in parts of London such as Havering and Harrow they have had considerable success in the past and have built up a following.

In Scotland, no member of the Scottish National Party would be grateful for being termed fringe or lumped with Communists or ratepayers, but judging by the party's chances of success it belongs in this category even though it has 1,309 candidates for the Scottish regional councils.

Audrey Swords is incurable.



So we tailored a wheelchair for her

Audrey Swords was born a spastic. Before she came to us, it took two people to help her around. She spent some years in conventional wheelchairs, but we decided she deserved something better. So we built her a special chair with steering and accelerator controls tailored to her individual requirements. It's absolutely perfect," she says.

We have over 270 incurable patients to care for. We cannot cure them. But we can help them, as we're helping Audrey. Skilled care can help them surmount their disabilities as much as possible, and can help them lead as full a life as possible. But we, too, need help. We are not part of the Health Service and we rely a lot on the generosity of the compassionate. Please help us with a donation, a deed of covenant or a bequest.

THE ROYAL HOSPITAL AND HOME FOR INCURABLES, (Putney and Brighton), Dept. T.D. West Hill, Putney, London SW15 3SW. Patrons: H.M. The Queen and H.M. The Queen Mother. Director of Appeals and Publicity: Air Commodore D. F. Rixson, OBE, DFC, AFC.



Begin drops plan to ban removal of settlements

Jerusalem, May 2.—Mr. Yitzhak Begin's government has decided today against a parliamentary resolution to ban the removal of Jewish settlements from occupied Arab territories in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Mr. Begin had proposed introducing a resolution in Parliament in the wake of Israel's evacuation of its settlements in the Sinai desert last week under the peace treaty with Egypt.

But only two cabinet members, Mr. Ze'evulun Hammer (Education) and Mr. Ariel Sharon (Defence), favoured the move. Israel's radio reported that Mr. Begin did not participate in the vote, but was known to want the resolution put to the Knesset (Parliament) only if it was assured of broad support.

The Opposition Labour Party said that it would not support the ban.

In the occupied territories, 24 Palestinian figures signed a letter to Mr. Sharon threatening to freeze municipal services if Israel does not reinstate the four Palestinian mayors dismissed in the last six weeks.

Mr. Bassam Shakaa, the dismissed mayor of Nablus, called reporters to his home to read out the statement, which also demanded the abolition of the Israeli civil administration established in the occupied territories last November. The Israelis dismissed the four mayors in an attempt to weaken Palestinian nationalists and prepare for the limited autonomy

envisioned in the Camp David peace accord.

Mr. Elias Freij, the moderate mayor of Bethlehem, said most of the mayors opposed municipal services. "It would be like collective punishment on our people," he said.

In the six weeks since the mayors were dismissed, 14 Arabs and 2 Israeli soldiers have been killed in disturbances in the West Bank, Gaza Strip and Jerusalem.

An Israeli civilian shot a 10-year-old Arab girl in the head today after his car was struck by stones in the village of Arub, near Hebron, the army said.

The girl was transferred from Hebron government hospital to Jerusalem's Hadassah hospital, where she was reported in serious condition.

The army said "no Israeli soldiers were involved in the shooting. Israeli Army radio said the civilian who shot the girl was in a line of motorists who came under a barrage of stones while driving through Arub. Police are searching for the gunman.

Other stoning incidents were reported in the West Bank towns of Hebron, Ramallah and Ya'atar, and an Israeli woman was slightly injured by broken glass when rioters threw stones at a bus traveling from Hebron to Jerusalem.

In the Golan Heights, where Druse Arabs have been on general strike for 12 weeks in protest against Israel's annexation of the

territory, authorities place two Arabs under administrative detention, a form of arrest without trial. — AP

Jerusalem: The Israeli cabinet today voted for the principle of stopping El Al flights on the Sabbath, in accordance with a coalition agreement signed between the ruling Likud Party and three religious parties. A ministerial committee was appointed to study how to apply the decision (AFP reports).

The Jewish Sabbath is observed from Friday evening to Saturday evening.

Observers expect the decision to put an end, at least temporarily, to demands by the religious parties, particularly Agudat Israel, which with its four deputies has been threatening to pull out of the government coalition of 61 deputies out of 120.

But executives of El Al, which is in financial trouble, say that stopping Sabbath flights would prove a fatal blow to the airline.

Following the cabinet decision, which also covers flights on religious holidays, El Al staff committees held emergency meetings to discuss its practical consequences. Both workers' representatives and executives described themselves as extremely worried by it.

But Rabbi Eliezer Shach, head of the council of the Torah, the Agudat Israel ruling body, hailed the move, thanks to which, he said, Mr. Begin "is assured of reaching a venerable age".

Botha and Kaunda may resume discussion

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg, May 2

A further round of talks is possible, according to a senior Zambian official, between Mr. P. W. Botha, the South African Prime Minister, and President Kenneth Kaunda, who met for three hours and had lunch together last Friday at a bush camp straddling the border between South Africa and Botswana.

In a comment to the South African Broadcasting Corporation last night, Mr. Milimo Punabantu, President Kaunda's press secretary, said, somewhat cryptically, that the chances of a second meeting would be influenced by the events of the next few weeks. He also described Friday's *indaba*, as it has been dubbed here, as "constructive and successful" and "really worthwhile".

Reinforcing this optimistic note, President Kaunda himself said in Lusaka today that the benefits of his talks with Mr. Botha would be felt by the whole of southern Africa. Zambian sources said that the President would brief his African colleagues, who have generally been critical of the meeting, fully about what was discussed.

The Zambian appraisal of the meeting is much warmer than anything that has emerged so far from the South African side. The South Africans have not yet elaborated on the terms of the last Friday's communiqué, which did little more than record the fact of the meeting and spoke neutrally of a frank and useful exchange of views.

Freetown annuls poll results

Freetown, May 2. — Election results in eight of Sierra Leone's 66 constituencies have been annulled because of "serious irregularities" in yesterday's voting to elect a new parliament. A statement from the electoral commission said new elections would be held "as soon as possible".

Although officials refused to describe the irregularities, there were numerous reports of fights at polling stations as supporters of candidates attempted to remove or destroy ballot boxes.

The police confirmed reports that supporters of Mr. Alex Stevens, one of President Siaka Stevens' two sons running for parliament, disrupted polling in his Freetown constituency.

In all, four of the 76-year-old President's relatives were first time contenders for parliament standing for the All People's Congress party controlled by the President.

One son, Jengo, was returned unopposed along with 18 other candidates. A nephew, Mr. David Nac-Roinah, was defeated in a Freetown constituency.

The election was the first under a new one-party system approved by a popular referendum in 1978 and was intended to do away with electoral violence, a characteristic of Sierra Leone elections since independence from Britain in 1961.

Complete returns are not expected for several days because of poor internal communications. — AP

Iran claims it reached Iraq border

Beirut, May 2. — Iran today claimed that its forces had fought through to the Iraqi frontier on the southern front on the third day of its most ambitious campaign of the 19-month-old Gulf war.

Iraq, which suffered serious reverses in the last Iranian offensive in central Khuzestan six weeks ago, said it had defeated the Iranian attack. But the claim contradicts a report 24 hours earlier that it had definitely "crushed" the Iranian troops.

The Iranian attack began shortly after midnight of Friday, and is codenamed Operation Jerusalem. In a clear reference to the importance Tehran places on the offensive.

After sending reinforcements across the Karun river just inside the border on Saturday, Iran claimed its forces made a new push at 1.00am this morning and reached the border near the town of Hoseiniyeh, 40 miles north of the crucial port of Khorramshahr, and Garmsar, 15 miles north of the port on the Shatt al Arab waterway. Sovereignty over the estuary is Iraq's main demand in the war.

Iran claimed that 6,000 Iraqis were killed in the offensive. Tehran has also invited foreign reporters to Iran to visit the battlefield to "see the destruction of the Iraqi army in southern Iran and interview captive Iraqi commanders and inspect some 4,000 military personnel captured".

Iraqi forces, however, claimed they had repulsed the Iranian attacks and launched a counter offensive, according to the official Iraqi News Agency. The Iraqi said more than 12,000 Iraqis had died in the latest offensive. UPI and Reuters.



May Day salute: President Brezhnev at the parade in Moscow's Red Square.

Violence spoils May Day

Lisbon, May 2. — The Portuguese Government is to prosecute leaders of communist-dominated CGTP-Inter-sindical trade union federation, accusing them of being responsible for May Day riots which left two people dead in Oporto early yesterday.

The CGTP executive has said it will call for a general strike in protest against the two dead and more than 80 injured as a result of police intervention with firearms.

The government statement came after an emergency meeting at the home of Senhor Francisco Pinto Balsemão, the Prime Minister.

The incidents occurred when CGTP militants claimed the right to hold their May Day celebrations in Oporto's main square, as they had last year. Colonel Antonio Rocha Pinto, Oporto's civil governor, said they were turned down this year because the Socialist union, UGT, applied first. The militants clashed with police when they tried to invade the square and break up the UGT festivities.

Madrid: Six people were taken to hospital after police fired rubber bullets and made baton charges to halt May

Day parades in northern Spain by Basques chanting support for separatist guerrillas.

Also in the north, a bomb wrecked Socialist Party offices in Tolosa, and police defused two bombs at Socialist offices in San Sebastian and at Communist trade union offices in Renteria, near Bilbao.

In the Canary Island town of Santa Cruz de Tenerife, a bomb seriously damaged a monument to troops killed fighting on the side of General Franco in the Spanish civil war.

Frankfurt: Football hooligans clashed with a peaceful May Day rally here yesterday in a day of disturbances centred on the all-Bavaria West German Cup Final. Shouting "Sieg Heil", the hooligans wrested trade union posters from members and began fights with the demonstrators.

Throughout the day 138 people were injured and 92 temporarily detained. Thirty had to be treated in hospital. Munich won the cup for the sixth time, beating Nuremberg 4-2 on aggregate.

MOSCOW: President Brezhnev, looking reasonably

The student and the peppermint

From Patricia Clough, Bonn, May 2

The whole weight of West German jurisprudence has been solemnly placed on the side of a diminutive dentistry student who was failed in an examination because she spat out a peppermint.

A grave pronouncement by the Münster Administrative Appeal Court ended a saga in which, once again, West German academics and the judiciary have distinguished themselves for their ability to take everything with the utmost seriousness.

It began when a small temperamental Iranian student identified only as Zahra K arrived for an end-of-term practical examination sucking a peppermint to disguise her garlicky breath.

This touched a raw nerve, not with her patient, but with the examining lecturer, who growled: "Take that... (four-letter word) out of your mouth." There ensued a furious row, which came to a climax as Zahra K spat out the peppermint in a high trajectory across the room.

Afterwards, she was told by her professor that she had failed the examination and would have to repeat the term. The reason: spitting out a peppermint was "convincing evidence of a lack of theoretical knowledge of dental hygiene".

Indignantly, she went to the local administrative court, which ruled that the professor was right. The appeal court this week overturned the decision.

Spitting out a peppermint, it said, should be seen "as a particularly powerful means of expressing a situation-inspired opinion". It did not indicate lack of knowledge but "at the most a temporary loss of self-control which can even happen to people with extensive knowledge of dental hygiene".

Abstentions mar historic pact

From Zoriana Pysariwsky, New York, May 2

Although the United States opposed and an intriguing mix of 17 Western and Eastern European countries abstained in the voting that adopted the most ambitious treaty in history — a code of laws for the World's oceans — there is still a possibility that they may join the majority when the convention on the law of the sea is open for signing later this year.

This prospect has prevented the final word from being said on whether the inability to adopt the convention by consensus has left it unworkable.

Last Friday, after nine years of negotiations, the third United Nations conference on the law of the sea adopted a complicated convention of 320 articles and nine annexes, to regulate almost every aspect of human activity upon and beneath the oceans.

Beyond this, it was seen as the shape of things to come, and already a Moon treaty for future space colonists is on the drafting table.

Codes for navigation and over-flight, exploration and exploitation, conservation and pollution, fishing and shipping are all contained in the convention on the law of the sea. It gives countries full sovereign power up to 12

miles offshore, then exclusive fishing rights for 200 miles out across the continental shelves.

It guarantees free passage to naval and merchant ships alike through all the world's straits and strategic "choke points" more than 100 of them. Likewise, land-locked states have the right of access to and from the sea.

American concern had centred on the fundamental issue of free enterprise that should rule the exploration and exploitation of the mineral wealth contained in the world's seabeds.

Although the treaty declares that this should be "the common heritage of mankind", with its recovery controlled and rewards shared, haggling between the Western industrialized countries and the Group of 77 developing countries continued up to the last minute.

However, hopes for an eleven-hour breakthrough that would have resolved some of the conflicting interests between a projected international mining authority and large Western mining consortium were shattered. What resulted was a great deal of bitterness that tempered the euphoria felt upon the convention's adoption.

Although the United States drew the Third World ire, the

equivocal stance of the Soviet bloc pointed to a mutual self-interest more powerful than ideology which was bolstered by the word that Moscow may be interested in a "mini treaty" being actively considered by the United States and some of the industrial powers to open up the deep ocean bed as they see fit.

Despite the strong reservations, the Americans had towards the idea of a radical majority of nations imposing their views over powerful mining interests, the United States and other Western industrialized countries. Unlike the Soviet bloc — were able to make certain that they could be able to profit from the treaty without signing it.

They were able to garner a crucial concession from developing countries designed to protect the investments of so-called "pioneer states" and thus interested in exploitation before the convention enters into force.

Although the United States prevented a flawless outcome of the marathon negotiations, developing countries could take comfort in the fact that none of the other key industrialized countries joined the Americans in their rejection. Britain and West Germany abstained, while France and Japan voted for the convention.

Soviet Union to reduce agricultural waste

Moscow, May 2. — The Soviet Union, which has suffered three poor grain harvests in a row, announced special measures today to cut agricultural waste this year and combat possible fodder shortages next winter.

Tass reported that the Communist Party and Government had adopted a decree aimed at improving the supply and maintenance of farm machinery and the transport of produce from the fields to storage areas.

It said, the decree also contained other measures to help the harvest but gave no details.

Moscow has yet to announce the final figure for the 1981 grain harvest, but unofficial Soviet and western estimates suggest it was no higher than 170 million tonnes and possibly as low as 150 million. The target was almost 240 million tonnes.

The official press reported that the country this winter but there has been no indication that this has caused any widespread slaughtering of animals.

Moscow is anxious to avoid reducing her grain output almost 10 years to build up. Today's Tass report gave no details of the special measures planned for next winter.

Soviet officials blame the country's failure to meet its 1981 harvest targets on a drought which affected much of the country last summer. Sugar beet, sunflower seed and vegetable production were also below plan.

Western agricultural experts believe harvest losses were worsened by poor organization and heavy waste on state and collective farms.

Problems of organization are likely to form the main topic of debate at a special plenum of the Communist Party's policy-making central committee, expected to take place later this month.

President Brezhnev today called for "reason and a sense of responsibility" from governments worldwide to avert a growing threat of nuclear warfare. (AFP reports).

In a letter issued by Tass today to the two co-presidents of a March medical congress for the prevention of nuclear war held in Cambridge, Mr. Brezhnev said that "impassable barriers must be raised immediately" to halt a nuclear war.

An international delegation arrived in Moscow to urge Soviet leaders to seek progress at the United Nations disarmament session in June. (AP reports).

The delegation includes Mr. John Silkin, Labour MP for Deptford, Mr. Douglas Roche of Canada, Señor Echeverría Alvarez of Mexico, Mr. N. K. Salve of India, and Mr. Une Ezeoke of Nigeria.

The village of San Rorcha Nagan is an important stronghold of the Front whose leader, Mr. Son Sann, a former Prime Minister, had just returned to the village from visits to Singapore and Kuala Lumpur, where he had talks about the long-delayed formation of a coalition Government of the three factions opposing Vietnamese rule in Cambodia.

East Timor resists Indonesia

By Our Foreign Staff

Indonesia is trying to force the people of East Timor to take part in this week's presidential election, according to the Revolutionary Front for the Independence of East Timor (Fretilin), which has been carrying on resistance since the Indonesian seizure of the territory in 1975.

Mr. Abilio Araújo, a member of Fretilin's central committee, said in London that the Indonesians were using the election "as a type of plot, to say that even the Timorese are voting for Golkar" — the party of President Suharto. He claimed that police on motorcycles were forcing people to join party meetings, and that people who refused to buy T-shirts showing Mr. Suharto's picture were accused of being Fretilin supporters.

Mr. Araújo, who lives in Lisbon, said that resistance in East Timor had been growing since 1980 when it was reorganized after some military setbacks. He claimed that on the last day of 1981 Fretilin carried out a series of attacks in the eastern zone of East Timor, including one on a military barracks in Baguia. This resulted in a mutiny of East Timorese soldiers against their Indonesian officers, who had to escape by helicopter.

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Moscow to pay bill for submarine

Stockholm. — The Soviet Union has agreed to pay Sweden 1.7m kronor (£170,000), the cost of salvaging one of its submarines which caused an international incident when it ran aground on rocks off the main southern Swedish naval base of Karlskrona last autumn (Christopher Mosey writes).

The Swedish Foreign Ministry said Sweden's ambassador in Moscow had been told by a Soviet Foreign Ministry official that the bill would be paid.

Spanish civil guard shot

Bilbao. — A paramilitary civil guard on duty at the police headquarters in Ondarra was killed by a gunman who fired several pistol bullets at him and escaped in an awaiting car.

No one has taken responsibility for the attack but police believe it was the work of ETA, the Basque separatist organization.

Former Dacca minister jailed

Dacca. — Mr. Jamaluddin Ahmed, Bangladesh's former deputy Prime Minister, is to serve seven years in prison for profiting through corruption and the misuse of power.

Mr. Jamaluddin, who headed the Industries Ministry under President Zia ur-Rahman, was also ordered by a military tribunal to pay a fine of 1 million taka (about £27,500).

Aircraft crash kills four

Bowling Green, Ohio. — Four people died in a private aircraft when it crashed into a block of student flats and exploded. The two-storey building caught fire but only one woman was believed to be inside and she escaped serious injury.

Unity supporter

Peking. — Mr. Deng Xiaoping, Vice-Chairman of the Chinese Communist Party, told Mr. Pierre Werner, the Luxembourg Prime Minister, that he was an enthusiastic supporter of a united Europe, the New China news agency said.

Spit and polish

Peking. — Anyone caught spitting or littering in Peking streets after July 1 will be fined. Hygiene police will enforce the laws and each district must clean its streets by 6.30 am, the New China news agency said.

Chad fighting

Ndjamena. — Shooting broke out at the weekend, spreading fears of a resumption of the civil war in Chad. The exchange of fire began when armed elements refused to hand over requisitioned military vehicles.

Maclean quits

Harare. — General Sandy Maclean, aged 50, a former commander of the Rhodesian Army who was appointed as head of Zimbabwe's defence force after independence is to retire after less than a year in the post.

Francis seized

Mulhouse, France. — Customs officers on the French-Swiss border seized 510,000 francs (about £46,000) from a Turkish imam, collected in France on behalf of Mr. Bulent Ecevit, the former Turkish Prime Minister.

Thai record

Bangkok. — Thailand's Population and Community Development Association claimed a world record of 658 vasectomies performed in one day.

Oslo explosion

Oslo. — A nightwatchman was injured by broken glass and dozens of windows were smashed by an explosion in front of the Norwegian Storting (parliament) building in Oslo.

Vietnamese fire kills 20 Cambodians

From Neil Kelly, Bangkok, May 2

More than 40 rounds fired by Vietnamese heavy artillery killed 20 Cambodians in their village near the Thai border yesterday. At least 50 others were wounded. Most of the victims were civilians under the control of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front.

The village of San Rorcha Nagan is an important stronghold of the Front whose leader, Mr. Son Sann, a former Prime Minister, had just returned to the village from visits to Singapore and Kuala Lumpur, where he had talks about the long-delayed formation of a coalition Government of the three factions opposing Vietnamese rule in Cambodia.

Mr. Robert Mugabe, the Prime Minister, told a big rally here the growing participation of workers in the management of businesses would be assured by "management committees".

Washington: Nearly 80 people were arrested during disorderly and sometimes violent May Day demonstrations by socialist and pro-communist groups.

Gandhi bans Sikh extremist groups

From Trevor Fishlock, Delhi, May 2

communal violence. Political and religious extremism has led to murders by fanatics, the hijacking of an airliner and bombings.

Trouble erupted again last week when Dal Khalsa members placed the heads of cows outside Hindu Temples in amritsar, a calculated insult. The aim was to incite Hindus to attack Sikhs in the hope the Sikhs would be driven into the militants' camp.

There was trouble on 20 Punjab towns as Sikhs and Hindus fought. Police had too open fire to control the mobs, one person was killed.

Among other grievance the militants complain about the sale of tobacco in the Sikh golden temple in amritsar, tobacco being offensive to Sikhs. The state government is now prohibiting the sale of cigarettes, liquor and meat in the neighbourhood.

The state and central governments take a serious view of tensions and political feuding in Punjab, in part because of its sensitive position on the Pakistan border. The troubles are an offshoot of the discontent felt by number of Sikhs on the grounds that they do not get a fair deal from the Delhi government.

The exclusively Sikh Akali party has fallen out with the government and has been using the Khalistan issue as a veiled threat.

At CALCUTTA, Police have arrested 106 people in connection with the killing of 17 members of a controversial religious sect here (Reuters reports). Angry crowds in the southern outskirts of Calcutta attacked members of Ananda, Margha (Path of Bliss) with members of spears, knives and iron bars following rumours that they had kidnapped children.

Handwritten text in Arabic script at the bottom of the page.

THE ARTS

Brian Wenham, Controller of BBC2, believes high-quality television can survive the next ten years in spite of the massive technological and commercial expansion of the industry. After that he is not so sure.

Bryan Appleyard interviews him about the future of British television.

Defender of the Reithian faith

Brian Wenham, Controller of BBC2, is doing more than trotting out the company line when he says "My view is that in 10 years time the BBC will still be seen to be the cornerstone of British television." He is in reality branding an article of the old Reithian faith in the face of a technological and commercial onslaught of a scale at which the industry can only guess. But all are agreed that the combined effects of cable, satellite, breakfast and Channel Four will be very far-reaching indeed. It is accepted that nothing will ever be the same again, but it is not yet known whether anything will be quite as good.

British television, it is routinely asserted, is the best in the world. The strange mix of advertising revenue and licence fee has survived for 25 years and has proved sufficiently flexible to finance a third and, this autumn, a fourth channel. In surviving it has maintained standards far above any offered by free-wheeling fully commercial systems or by more state-controlled systems.

That quality has largely been maintained during the slow, considered expansion of the last quarter-century. But the impending revolution is going to be very rapid indeed. Quite apart from the conventional expansions of Channel Four and breakfast, the possibilities arising from satellite and cable television in conjunction with the growth in the numbers of home videos are almost infinite, with up to 100 channels as well as vast quantities of service material and rental or bought feature films all being offered for piping into the humble domestic box. The fear is that this revolution will signal the end of high-quality British television.

Wenham's thoughts on the subject are perhaps the most relevant of all. He has held the present job for four years and at the age of 45 is now maturing out of the role of whizz-kid into that of mandarin. His achievement in those four years has been to raise BBC2's audience share from 8 per cent to 12 per cent without noticeably denting the quality. He did this by changing the staple programme like *Four in the Hand* to *The World About Us*, but by skilled use of the early evening to lure audiences away from the

predominantly news and current affairs scheduling of the other two channels. He has thus established BBC2 as a genuine alternative, switched on at some stage by 80 per cent of the population rather than a remote Radio 3-type zone largely unexplored by the masses.

His success has aroused the usual mixture of suspicion, envy and speculation within and without the corporation. "Clever" is an epithet that generally springs to people's lips, and there is a substantial body of Wenham lore. But he was long out of the big reshuffle of BBC chiefs earlier this year and, as for the job of director-general of the IBA, he firmly maintains he never applied and never considered it.

So Wenham remains at BBC2, dug in behind a 12 per cent share and maintaining the status quo in the face of the assault of the future. Breakfast television from either the BBC or ITV — "Jaybreak" as he calls the latter — provides no ratings problems. Wenham does not necessarily see a dilution of the quality of each broadcast minute but as a potential increase in the opportunities to view via repeats, television of complete sports events and so on. In the video field, hiring of feature films will also have the effect of snatching audiences away from cinema to television. Such developments are all advances rather than dilutions, but still quality costs money at a time when the holders of the purse-strings are likely to be more distracted by those increases in broadcast time and in technological developments.

"The heartland of the problem is the business of how you make quality drama and quality entertainment and there you are in fact dealing with the same problem as the film industry, the same problem David Puttnam faced in dealing with *Chariots of Fire*. That problem is how you actually get the finance together to make programmes which cannot be made on the cheap."

So the creators have to continue to struggle both for in-house funds and for co-production money. The latter carries with it the danger that the BBC will find itself tailoring programmes for foreign markets. So far Wenham is sure this has not happened and anyway, far from buying bland mid-Atlantic products the Ameri-

cans appear to like best the kind of specifically British product which the producers appear most keen to make. It is highly convenient but apparently true.

But strategically Wenham's eye is on the wider of the British consumer. The total amount of cash going into our television from advertising and licence fee is currently around £1,000m, a pathetically small sum in view of the medium's importance in society and in terms of the total of leisure spending.

"Everything that the public puts into television, including rentals of films for video recording, barely tott up per individual to what people spend in a couple of hours in the pub. Television's incursion into the total leisure budget is very tiny. With subscription systems for feature films or services you may be unleashing a whole new sum of money which will far outstrip the sorts of figures we are talking about at the moment. It is possible to devise ways whereby the citizen's domestic budget can be tapped for a great deal more money to go back into the industry."

Such services, however, lead into the delicate area of first and second class viewers. First class viewers will be prepared to pay for the up-market services. So television quality may have to be more directly for man in the past, and by fewer people.

As for the BBC-IBA duopoly Wenham suggests that the Government decision to allocate the first two satellite channels to the BBC indicates a commitment to the present structure and thus to the best interests of the viewer. It is a structure which has never succumbed fully to the mindless pursuit of ratings; even in the case of the ITV companies their contract with the IBA is primarily to make programmes and only secondarily to make money, though their shareholders might think differently.

So the Wenham view — or Wenvision as it would probably be called inside the corporation — is that the structure is still alive and looks good for another decade. That structure carries with it all the advantages and disadvantages which have so far shored British television against its ruin. Co-productive money and the tax and

levy holiday of Channel Four are additional fortifications for the time being. But economists might recognize the beginnings of a familiar pattern — a rapid expansionary period in which product design is paramount and money is plentiful which is then followed by the perception that all baked beans or cars or television programmes are much the same and price becomes the critical factor. From within the business Wenham has a premonition of the same process from another angle.

"I would guess that in 10 years time television will be no less good in the variety of what it does. In 20 years' time I'm actually much less sure about it. The reason is that satellite developments are all perfectly understandable in terms of simply another knob on the television. But what cable will do in the long term, if we actually move to a position of 100 channels or whatever, is to bring with it the



Photograph of Brian Wenham by Malcolm Clarke

Television Missing world

"On with the motley, eh, Nye?" murmurs a *Daily Herald* reporter as he pins a Labour rosette to the lapel of Aneurin Bevan. At least that is what he did in Paul Ferris's "drama-documentary" *Nye* (BBC 1); it is important to bear in mind the fictional element in these cases. The speeches, of course, were taken from the life. But we have to rely on the quality of Ferris's research and the extent of his sympathy with Bevan's personality for the truth or otherwise of the personal and political background which inspired them.

In the event he was hampered by the refusal of Jennie Lee, Bevan's widow, to cooperate in the preparation of the play, though she did speak at length to John Hartley, the actor who plays her late husband. Whatever advice or insights she gave him appeared to have worked. Hartley came up with as good a piece of impersonation as any that has sprung from television's attempts to recreate history.

Periodically impersonation gave way to something better when Hartley blended the summer, the physical clumsiness and the emotional stress into a real man. But a personal world was always missing, a shortcoming which which Ferris attempted to cope by fixing his gaze firmly on the Labour Party conference of 1957 when Bevan abandoned political instinct in favour of "statesmanship" by speaking in favour of nuclear weapons. To this crucial episode he affixed his structure of flashbacks and flash-forwards, tying youthful experience to mature conviction and mental turmoil in a routine but reasonably convincing way.

The result was inevitably schematic in the extreme: bad experience with the colliery doctor leads to Bevan's determination to launch the National Health Service and so on. But history requires a sketchy quality to allow it to become myth and myth is what Bevan



John Hartley as Bevan

indisputably has become, even to the extent of modifying the present from beyond the grave — what is Tony Benn, after all, but a product of Nye's imagination? Perhaps politics requires the simplification of myth but drama needs more. Ferris failed to deliver.

All in all it was a good weekend for the Left on television. Not only was Nye remembered but there was also Jerusalem's Army (ITV), the latest injection of socialism into the commercial network by the pinks at Central.

Put together by Steve Timmins, it was a Joan Littlewood-type collage on the subject of mass unemployment. William Beveridge was his hero with his belief that government does hold the key to full employment as shown by the efforts of the wartime economy. Unfortunately broadcasting this weekend carried the implication that events in the South Atlantic may thereby have a silver lining, but that could not be helped. Indeed the broadcast was interspersed with ITN news-flashes about the fighting around the Falklands. Beveridge's words were thus given a rather startling and appalling immediacy.

As well as the usual archive footage and Theatre Workshop-style dramatizations, there were also some neo-Blakean animations to accompany the persistent use of "And did those feet..." But this sort of self-consciously lively assemblage requires the touch of a Littlewood if we are not to feel patronized, and that was missing. The cartoons did add an imaginative embellishment but they failed to blend organically with the rhetorical structure on which they were imposed.

Were they ironic, bathetic comment on the failure to create a new Jerusalem or were they genuine visualizations of the aspirations of the working class? Either way it demonstrated a curious tendency amongst the Left to adopt mystical imagery. Nye's brief rhapsody betrayed the same habit even if it was invented by Ferris.

The truth is, of course, that if William Blake were alive today he would probably vote for either the Tories or Bill Roasts. But we should not carp about Socialism's happy media carnival — on with the motley, eh, Nye?

Bryan Appleyard

Theatre Nowhere for the lad to turn

W.C.P.C. Half Moon

Just why Nigel Williams' W.C.P.C. has been rebounding from nervous management for the past five years I am at a loss to understand, as it is by far the most flattering picture of Britain's police I have yet seen in the theatre.

True, it is set largely in public lavatories and features a Vice Squad so keen on "penetrating the opposition" that they are indistinguishable from their quarry, apart from those fetching uniforms. But they are a very friendly crowd, held together by bonds of more than institutional loyalty, and you never see them doing anything cruel. They even have a good word for Fleet Street: "Fundamentally a decent body of men", as the Commander handsomely puts it.

No, Mr Williams' villain is not the force, but a young rookie seconded to the lavatorial beat and keen as mustard to get the country back on the heterosexual rails. PC Simon is not exactly a Vice Squad so keen on "penetrating the opposition" that they are indistinguishable from their quarry, apart from those fetching uniforms. But they are a very friendly crowd, held together by bonds of more than institutional loyalty, and you never see them doing anything cruel. They even have a good word for Fleet Street: "Fundamentally a decent body of men", as the Commander handsomely puts it.

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Beautiful casting: Phil Smeeton and Robert Stephens

who instantly holds a court of inquiry, sentencing the culprits to a 24-hour suspension on full pay.

There is nowhere for poor Simon to turn. His fellow constables are spending their nights at the ballet and writing reviews for *Gay News*, and when the Commander pinches his cheek and invites him on a walking holiday, Simon makes his great decision. "There are honest coppers, and I'm going out to find one," he announces, and stalks out past the kilted manservant.

By this time it is clear that Mr Williams is not in the business of social criticism or unmasking law-enforcement as a mirror image of crime. W.C.P.C. is simply an anarchic comedy, based on the interesting device of reversing the usual balance of sympathy between the

City of London Sinfonia/Hickox

Barbican Hall

However the weather curbed outdoor adventure, at least the English pastoral scene could be enjoyed vicariously in the warmth of east London's vast new palace of culture on Friday night when the City of London Sinfonia under Richard Hickox played works by Elgar, Vaughan Williams and Finzi — artfully offset by Purcell and early Britten.

Curiosity about the Barbican itself no doubt drew some of the encouragingly large audience. But the growing reputation of the group itself must not be underestimated. Always in the closest rapport with his players, Mr Hickox has the gestures to get precisely what he wants. His tingling rhythm could scarcely have failed to ensure first-class ensemble. Woe betide any visiting chamber orchestra not similarly secure, for the hall exposes every internal detail with the clarity of an X-ray.

Partly because of the acoustics, but equally, I suspect, by reason of the conductor's special fellow-feeling, nothing was more impressive than the Purcell and Britten, with a suite from *The Faery Queen* uncommonly refreshing for its light, textural transparency and springy step. In the G minor Chacona subtle shades of purple and blue were broken into an unbroken flow (though now and again the harpsichordist was again rather heard). Britten's colourfully scored *Simple Symphony* emerged with an equally well-served, unfringed freshness of sonority as well as rhythmic piquancy.

If the more expansive ruminations of Vaughan Wil-

Irving Wardle

liams (the "Rhosymedre" Prelude), Elgar and Gerald Finzi would have sometimes benefited from a fuller, warmer tonal glow, in this more tangibly English music, too, there was a compensatory clarity — not least in the tripping fugue semiquavers of Elgar's Introduction and Allegro. In Finzi's Clarinet Concerto one or two more urgent climaxes sounded undernourished. But Jack Brymer's caressing soft tone and fluid phrasing worked wonders for the tranquillity at the music's heart.

Joan Chissell

CBSO/Clebury

Town Hall, Birmingham

Voyage is the theme linking the three movements of *Jon Joubert's Sea*, John Joubert's 40-minute choral symphony commissioned by the Feeney Trust and given its first performance by the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra and Chorus at the Town Hall on Thursday. The poetry — Whitman, Roy Campbell and Yeats (the last line of *Byzantium* given the full scope of this great cycle. But it was very enjoyable just the same, because he was fully in command, entirely the master of all the relevant keyboard problems.

Kenneth Loveland

John Lill

Queen Elizabeth Hall

John Lill on Thursday gave the second of eight recitals in which he is to play all 32 of Beethoven's piano sonatas. Insofar as he performed three early works and one from the middle period, his programme did not suggest the full scope of this great cycle. But it was very enjoyable just the same, because he was fully in command, entirely the master of all the relevant keyboard problems.

Max Harrison

Concerts

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Bumps and Knots

Lyric, Hammersmith

It looks as if *Bumps and Knots* may not run much longer than this notice. There was obviously a time when a brighter future was envisioned. The settings by themselves suggest an enthusiasm that usually means a West End transfer. Grant Hicks has provided colourful and mobile designs that even dance with the company in the first part of the show. *Bumps*. As part of the design Tim Bickerton has ingeniously constructed a giant illuminated Wurliizer organ, and an even more giant hand with a paintbrush that concludes *Bumps* by painting a cubist backdrop. Unfortunately when the hand has writ and moved on, it is suddenly clear how little substance has been provided.

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Years ago Mr Petherbridge

Years ago Mr Petherbridge adapted R. D. Laing's book of social and psychological tangles into a performance for the Actors Company. As I remember it the performance stayed close to the tricky exchanges of misunderstandings that Dr Laing had distilled into art dialogue. Now it drifts very far away from meaning into mime and music. It has become an abstraction with no governing form.

Again the performers, including Mr Petherbridge, give it moment to moment interest, but the lethargy is built in. However energetically such talented actors as Jacqueline Reddin or Ian McNeice work, it is the idea that has grown tired over the years. Boredom is the final, lamentable achievement, of much dedicated labour.

Ned Chaillet

Royal Ballet

Covent Garden

Festival Ballet

Coliseum

Advertisements for the Royal Ballet's new programme at Covent Garden describe Gisel as the greatest romantic ballet. Is it? My money would be on Bournonville, perhaps for *La Sylphide*, probably *Napoli*. But the claim and the comparison both draw attention to a weakness which this production of Gisel shares with most others, that it pays too little regard to the romantic spirit. Curiously, it is not a modern look at the style of the 1841 original that we are given, but a dusty manner hovering somewhere halfway between then and now.

In Saturday's performance,

David Wall's loveborn

David Wall's loveborn Albrecht and Stephen Jefferies' devoted Hilarion both had a full-blooded manner that would have suited a staging with more historical than the one by Erik Bruening. Merle Park danced as Gisel with good line in the second half, with a sort of Pavlova evocation, but her first half was too much in her pseudo-Duncan manner.

Those members of the audience who think Gisel poor value on its own seem to have won the day. Two short works precede it on this bill: the result was a full house (rare this past month or so) and a 10.15 final curtain, which can scarcely be called unduly late. More variety in the repertoire and more roles for the dancers can hardly be a disadvantage, either.

First came *Afternoon of a Faun*, with Ashley Page looking exactly right but Bryony Brind not really catching either the timidity or the tenseness she seemed to be aiming at. Then

followed a revival by Kirsten

followed a revival by Kirsten Ralov of the duet from Bournonville's *Flower Festival at Genzano*. Ralov's version of the piece is nearer to the mainstream tradition than the one by Erik Bruening which used to be given some years ago at Covent Garden. Lesley Collier and Stephen Jefferies, both tackling it for the first time, rose happily to its quick, bouncy choreography and playfully flirtatious mood.

In the afternoon, Festival Ballet's announced cast of its two young Italian soloists, Calderini and Bellezza, was prevented by injury from dancing *The Sleeping Beauty*. It might have been courteous to those spectators who had booked specially to see their London debut in the ballet to have made an announcement explaining the change.

I must say that, with only a few exceptions, the performance looked rather shabby. Presumably David Coleman's unruly tempi must take a large share of the blame for

the untidy, out-of-time dancing in the garden waltz; but there is no excuse for the four suitors who turned the Rose Adagio into farce with their bizarre characterizations (querulous, effeminate or decrepit), nor for the young man in the ensemble who mimed wild astonishment at every step in Aurora's solo immediately following.

On the credit side, apart from the stylish playing of Jonas Kaage and an authoritative though tense Patricia Ruanne in the leads, I admired Marc du Bouay's closing brises totes as Bluebird and the poised, charming style of Mireille Bourgeois leading the Prologue diversissement, though several of her followers seemed out of their depth. It also seems to me an odd idea to have since the drama of the production depends partly on having her and the Lilac Fairy as opponents on equal terms.

John Percival



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PRISONERS OF THEIR PAST

With the bombing of Port Stanley, the isolation of the Argentine invasion force is now complete. Pressure on the beleaguered garrison must be maintained and, if necessary, increased, to secure the ultimate demoralisation of the Argentine forces and their departure from the islands.

However, it is not just the isolation of the unfortunate invaders which must now be of concern to Britain. It is the isolation of Argentina itself. We are dealing with a country in a state of crisis, in which the catastrophe so long which has been upon it, is now about to blow like a hurricane upon its citizens. This may be a psychological phenomenon, but the sad truth has to be faced in London that it is Great Britain, her Government, her armed forces, indeed her people as a whole who will appear to Argentines — however unjustly — as the cause and instrument of their undoing. We are not the cause; but the psychology of the moment makes it imperative that Great Britain speaks and acts with cool deliberation and great firmness in response to the outburst of such irrational forces in Buenos Aires. It is only by sticking to clearly stated principles and, if necessary, reinforcing our words with decisive action that we can hope to prevail on Argentina to extract some good from the long night which has enveloped it and led to this emergency.

There can thus be no cause for rejoicing at the feat of British arms this weekend. It had to be done; it may have to be done again. Relief — but only relief — can accompany any such unpleasant task successfully accomplished with the minimum loss of life on both sides. In an age of deterrence, the skills of war suffer from a paradox: that their fundamental purpose is to be unused. The swordsmen's reward thus comes only when he returns his blade — little bloodied — to the scabbard.

In these circumstances, when self-control is an essential weapon in dealing with a body in the throes of a violent upheaval, Mrs Thatcher's invitation to have confidential talks with other party leaders is to be welcomed. Mr Steel and Dr Owen have responded favourably; it would have been good for the country if Mr Foot had done the same.

The tone of voice with which we speak to each other in our deliberations, and, by extension, the tone of voice which we adopt when speaking both to our adversary and to the world at large, will be an increasingly important expression of our quiet but resolute approach to matters which will elsewhere provoke

much shouting and violent eruptions. Argentina is in the grip of uncontrollable desires, fuelled by impossible fantasies forced to the surface by a legacy of terrific tensions in its society going back over many years. We cannot afford to humiliate it. We cannot by our own actions let Argentina escape the hopelessness of its situation, even if it means exposing ourselves to more danger. It is important for British policy to remain constant in its demands for the withdrawal of Argentine forces and magnanimous only after that in its readiness to re-establish friendly relations and a constructive dialogue about the future. Nothing now should be said, or done, to blur the issue or to help the Argentines avoid coming to terms consciously with their real crisis, whose profundity has been obscured by the momentary distraction of the Falklands invasion. Now that the invasion has been ended on them, the crisis can only intensify within their own society; and the junta, in their fear, maybe in their bewilderment, know this, and will postpone that moment of consciousness for as long as they can.

Britain must therefore be ready to extract and then reinforce the good elements of our relationship with Argentina. We have cultural bonds which, at the heart of it, are the only weapons against the unreasoning energy of the mob. In the heat of today's battle, Argentines may be encouraged only to recall the surrender of General Beresford and General Whitelock in the early 1800's. They may be reminded of the blockade of Buenos Aires by a British fleet in 1845. The Argentine personality may not yet, in such an unstructured society and with such a turbulent history, have come to terms with its Spanish inheritance, which many seem to think entitles them to a cultural pre-eminence in Spanish America because the vicereignty over Bolivia, Uruguay and Paraguay was centred in Buenos Aires for many years, and because the final moment of liberation from Spanish rule was celebrated by all the original provinces meeting in Buenos Aires in 1822.

That may be the dark part of their legacy. But there is a lighter part too, particularly with the British connexion. One of the great heroes of their independence, General José de San Martín, gained his experience fighting with Britain against the French in the Peninsula, and the great period of industrial investment and expansion of the 1880's was achieved mostly with British capital, giving rise to the deep roots and dual loyalties of the Anglo-

Argentine community today.

In looking to the future then, we must hold out some hope for Argentina, not that the invasion can be rewarded — because that cannot and should not be done — but that some future good may emerge from contemporary evil. For that to occur there first has to be an Argentine recognition of its own guilt — not to us, not to the United Nations, but to itself. The psychological correction can be made only in consciousness, but, once admitted, it can act as a powerful moral stimulus. So it should be with Argentina, though the process of admitting this guilt will almost certainly usher in one more convulsion in its violent history.

Thereafter, Britain should either directly or, if the wounds are still too raw for a direct encounter, with the United Nations, show willingness to live in harmony with Argentina over the Falklands — but on the basis of respect for the law, of legal rights, and of freely negotiated agreements. There are a number of permutations which would not violate these principles in the way the aggression has violated them. Such harmony cannot be contemplated, however, until we know what kind of Argentina we will be dealing with. Who will speak then for Argentina? The security of the Falklanders can only rest with Britain unless and until Argentina presents a more reassuring personality to the world than the one which wrestles with itself today. Then, but only then, can Britain welcome an Argentine leader to the negotiating table with the words "Bring forth the best robe and put it on him."

Until that moment we are left with an unpleasant but necessary task of correction. In terms of Argentina's crisis the present junta may be an improvement on some of its predecessors. But it cannot dissociate itself from them, nor from the intolerable tensions of the recent past under military rule. It has little respect for the law; and depends for its own position purely on force majeure. It may be therefore that the junta only understands the hard language of military strategy. It may find it easier to accept that, and proudly admit defeat, rather than to succumb to a compromise. It may take more notice of this raging fire at sea than of the slow burning fuse of economic sanctions, the ebbing assurances of bankers or the complex niceties of diplomacy. For all these reasons the British Government must continue to stand firm and persist with its declared policies until they have been accomplished.

WAITING FOR SIGNALS FROM WARSAW

The demonstrations in Poland show that the country is still very far from reconciled to martial law. The shock effect is wearing off. Public opinion is reemerging to demand the release of Mr Walesa and the reinstatement of Solidarity. The regime is therefore being confronted more directly than before with the choice between clamping down more tightly or moving faster towards reconciliation.

The West has a role to play in influencing this choice. After martial law was imposed last December it agreed on certain fairly limited sanctions. The only one to cause any significant pain was the denial of further credits to Poland, and this was little more than a confirmation of existing reluctance to pour more money into Poland's tottering economy. The aim was not purely punitive. It was to convey the very practical message that if Poland was to have any chance of getting on its feet and repaying its debts to the West the regime would have to win the support of the people and find a system through which they could have a genuine voice in affairs. It was for this reason, among others, that NATO linked the imposition of sanctions last January with a call for Poland to "end the state of martial law, to release those arrested, and to restore immediately a dialogue with the Church and Solidarity."

The sanctions have certainly had an economic effect. Large sections of manufacturing industry are idle or partly idle for lack of components, materials and spare parts which cannot be bought with-

out western credits. Huge numbers of chickens have been slaughtered for lack of American grain. National income is still dropping. Politically the results are more obscure. The need for western help must have had some influence on the deliberations of the leaders, but they insist that sanctions have made reconciliation more difficult by adding to economic hardship and depressing the economy to a point where economic reforms based on market mechanisms could not operate. The West Germans also doubt the value of sanctions. They have a huge political and emotional stake in their belated post-war reconciliation with Poland, and they have poured in more food parcels than anyone else. Their attitude must be respected, both for its historical meaning and as an important contribution to the European peace, but it is also coloured by a more questionable view that the Poles cannot really cope with freedom and that a military government striving gradually for reforms is really the best answer in the circumstances. Any alternative to General Jaruzelski would be worse, they say.

This is a tempting argument. Most people in the West have a huge fund of goodwill towards the Poles. They do not want to add to Poland's hardships, and they are realistic enough to see that western democracy will not be permitted in the Soviet sphere. They would like to help. But the signals from Warsaw are still unclear. On the one hand there have been moves towards reform. Private agriculture has re-

ceived a much-needed boost, and new laws are being passed to decentralize decision-making and introduce some elements of a market economy. There is a limited dialogue with the Church and there have been attempts to talk with Solidarity, though without any sign of success. On the other hand there have been clumsy purges of academics and journalists combined with idiotic and humiliating loyalty tests, all of which indicate an intention of suppressing the sort of free exchange of information and ideas which is necessary if the system is to develop any life of its own. Thousands are still interned and harsh sentences have been passed on union activists. Neo-Stalinists still enjoy influence. Reform seems far from secure.

In these circumstances the West is right to remain cautious. Estimates have been made that Poland needs a hard currency credit of \$1,500m for imports to enable its industry to start earning hard currency again. This is a lot of money to make available to a regime that has not resolved its internal political differences. The message that the West should convey, therefore, is that while it will not necessarily insist on full implementation of the NATO demands, since these may be unrealistic in the circumstances, it does need a good deal more reassurance about where the Polish regime is heading before it can start trying to nudge its banks or its treasuries into gambling still more money on a Polish recovery.

Benefits pressure in youth scheme

From the Director of the National Council for Voluntary Organisations

Sir, It was reported in *The Times* on May 1 that the Government is reluctant that benefits should be paid to young people who refuse a place on the new comprehensive Youth Training Scheme for 16 year old and 17 year old school leavers due to start in September 1983. The proposals for this training scheme are the work of a task group set up by the Manpower Services Commission. It included representatives of the CBI, the TUC, education authorities, youth and voluntary organisations. The recommendations about supplementary benefits and indeed all the recommendations in the report, which has now been accepted by the Manpower Services Commission, were unanimous.

I believe that voluntary organisations throughout the United Kingdom are willing to play their full part in providing many of the extra places that will be required under the new Youth Training Scheme. But they can only do so with the willing consent of young people. That consent will be gained by providing attractive and good quality schemes, not by prescription. Yours faithfully, NICHOLAS HINTON, National Council for Voluntary Organisations, 26 Bedford Square, WC1. May 2.

Governing the Church

From Mr W. R. Eyres

Sir, Without wishing to gainsay Canon Andrews' long experience as a priest (letters, April 23) my impression is that the typical Anglican minister is not likely to resort to political manoeuvring since he (or she) respects the authority of the vicar.

The source of dissatisfaction over the introduction of the Alternative Service Book (1980) is that the Church authorities have said one thing but appear to have willed another. As it says in the preface to the ASB, the intention was not to supersede the Book of Common Prayer. However, actions speak louder than words and in many parishes the ASB is now being treated as a relic. The implication is that the BCP is suitable only for the elderly or dotty, who cannot be expected to adjust to new forms of worship.

When it comes to outright disagreement, churchgoers do not vote — but, alas, with their feet.

Yours faithfully, RONALD EYRES, 27 Grove Terrace, NW5. April 26.

Down by the riverside

From Mr Adrian Stunco

Sir, In February 1981, the Secretary of State for the Environment said: "I want to try to improve the quality of architecture on important sites in London, particularly on the Thames." The statement went on to say that the embankments of the Thames should be declared an area of outstanding civic importance. I propose, therefore, to consult the GLC and the boroughs concerned about how a policy for the Thames in central London can be worked out and applied within the usual planning framework.

It seems likely, however, that the time Mr Heseltine has worked out a new policy, most of the key sites will be committed. As Simon Jenkins pointed out (*The Times*, April 23), a decision on the so-called Green Gleaners is imminent. The Secretary of State has already published his decision on the Ray's Wharf site which faces the Tower of London. And, shortly, he will need to reach a decision on the equally controversial Coin Street development.

The reason why these and other major Thames-side schemes excite so much attention is that each involves a key site along one of the nation's finest assets. Once development is completed the opportunity to reconsider the future of these sites will not recur for at least a century. We need, as the Secretary of State himself agreed, an overall approach to these developments rather than, as now seems to be the case, a series of piecemeal decisions.

Is this yet another example of what Mrs Coker (*The Times*, April 23), saw as in your own words, "Mr Heseltine's enthusiastic haste towards objectives not sufficiently clearly conceived?"

Yours sincerely, ADRIAN STUNCO, President Metropolitan Planning Officers' Society, London Borough of Tower Hamlets, Town Hall, Bow Road, E3. April 27.

Defence policy after the Falklands

From Mr Michael Chichester

Sir, Whatever the final outcome, the long-term strategic lessons of the Falklands crisis should not be those suggested by David Watt (April 30).

By advocating that Britain should continue to give priority in its defence planning to the protection of "north-west Europe" (and most of all these islands) from land attack from the east by conventional and nuclear means, he fails to take account of the fundamental changes in the nature of the threat facing the Western Alliance which has developed during the past decade. This threat is now global. An offensive by land and air forces towards the Rhine is only one of several strategic options available to the Soviet Union in its long-term plan to expand its interests worldwide. The "out of area" (the NATO area) element of the Soviet global threat can only be matched by sea power which must include both integral ship-borne and also shore-based air components backed by a rapid deployment intervention capability. The despatch of the Task Force to the South Atlantic has been a good example of what the response to out-of-area threats has to be.

Whilst it may be argued that at present the Antarctic is not an area of vital interest to the West, who can say for how long this would have continued to be the case if Argentine aggression had been allowed to succeed and had been followed by Argentine-Soviet collaboration in the area? It is not proposed that we should "try vainly to restore large global capabilities". But in

the allocation of our limited defence resources first priority should now be given to those maritime air forces which are flexible and capable not only of defending in conventional war the Eastern Atlantic and Channel and United Kingdom air space, as well as providing reinforcement for the Northern flank, but also of contribution to Allied out-of-area deployments which may become necessary in times of tension to protect vital Western interests.

Mr Watt has failed to grasp that rising defence costs and inevitable budget ceilings now prevent Britain from continuing to give priority to its contribution to the protection of North West Europe from land attack from the east except at a nationally unacceptable price, namely the reduction of the Royal Navy to the size proposed by Mr Nott in the July 1981 Defence Review.

There is no military logic in maintaining one third of our army and a sizeable part of our air force on the continent whilst at the same time risking the destruction of their reinforcements, fuel, and supplies (without which they will be overwhelmed) long before they reach the front-line.

The lesson of the Falklands Islands crisis is that a rearrangement of the priorities given to Britain's strategic role within the Alliance and not just a return to the status quo ante has become even more urgent than it was before the Task Force set sail.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant, MICHAEL CHICHESTER, 47c Melbury Road, W14. May 1.

The war within

From Miss Jennifer Josselyn

Sir, I was glad to see you tackle the momentous subject of justification for war in your aptly titled leader of today, April 24. It is a question that could never be adequately covered in the space available for a leading article, but even in a short space I feel mention should have been made of the central point of the Christian Gospel, which is to do with grace and redemption and not the mere justification of war.

The Gospel surely lies in the ultimate sense, no conditions under which an exception can be made to the commandment "thou shalt not kill." The principle of law is that it always applies whatever the conditions. Speaking of moral men everywhere, Augustine said in *The City of God* "each group pursued its own desires. In such pursuits not everyone, perhaps no one, achieves complete satisfaction, because men have conflicting aims. Hence human society is divided against itself, and one group is always oppressing another, when it finds itself the stronger."

At the worst the conflict leads to war and the killing of men. In this state of affairs and in temporal terms, or those of the "city of the world", in which you are, the use of force, which has become relative to the desires

and needs of a particular group, may be legitimate. However, in the "city of God" the absolute law, by that city's nature, must hold, and whatever the apparent justification we give for contravening it in temporal terms, we stand to be judged under that law.

As your leader rightly points out we need to resist injustice even if it takes us to war in the hope of obtaining peace. But the Christian should be under no illusion that this resistance provides his justification for waiving the commandment. The justification for the Christian, if we can call it such, lies in the core of the Gospel in the forgiveness of man in the face of the law through Christ's death and resurrection. When as members of the temporal world we have to choose the lesser of two evils and knowing that we cannot foresee the ultimate result of our actions, as Christians we can only rely on faith in Christ. This is the hope we would take to war. In this and the eternal objective comes from above rather than below.

Yours faithfully, JENNIFER JOSSELYN, 147 High Street, Wickham Market, Woodbridge, Suffolk, April 24.

The jury system

From Mr Brian Hogan

Sir, It is probably impossible to devise a system foolproof against the miscarriage of justice. But — and hold your breath — might not the risk be somewhat reduced by the abolition of trial by jury? Trial by judge alone (almost invariable in civil cases) involves the judge in stating the facts which he finds proved on the evidence and drawing from them conclusions supported by rational inference. The appellate court is much more free to question his findings of fact and to draw its own inferences.

The appellate court is much less able to do this when faced by the near inscrutable verdict of a jury which does not spell out the premises on which it is based. So the jury's verdict will be supported if there is any available view of the evidence which will support the verdict. The accused can thus never be sure what in fact determined by the jury and what inferences, rational or otherwise, were drawn.

Of course trial by jury is one of our sacred cows. But, you know, if we'd long had trial by judge in criminal cases and I were now to suggest that his reasoned and professional judgment as to facts and inferences should be replaced by the blanket verdict of pretty well any twelve men and women placed in a cramped box and holed up there for days or even weeks at a time you would, rightly think that I had taken leave of my senses.

Yours sincerely, BRIAN HOGAN, 11 Lady Wood Road, Leeds.

Marco Polo's travels

From Mr R. H. F. Dalton

Sir, The journalistic view of Marco Polo's achievements coming from the Victoria and Albert Museum (your China Supplement of April 23) is happily not shared by the Chinese. In the April 1982 issue of *China Reconstructs* there is an article by Ying Ruocheng, the actor who plays the role of Kublai Khan in the Marco Polo film recently completed in China, which summarises the Travels.

"Marco Polo acted as a bridge between the Europe of his day and the Chinese civilization about which Europeans then knew virtually nothing. His *Travels of Marco Polo*, which has enchanted hundreds of millions of readers since it was first written, is more than a great adventure story. It helped break through the shackles on thinking in late medieval Europe and shed a gleam of light

into that relatively dark age. Through his book, Europeans learned for the first time about China's invention of printing, gunpowder and the compass, that 'black rocks' (oil) could be used as fuel, and that rich and complex civilizations existed far from Europe."

I think some people should exchange the dust ridden byways of Kensington for the balmy thoroughfares of Kinsai; they would recognize, even after some 700 years, that the genius loci of Hang-Chou could have only been described by somebody who was actually there.

Yours faithfully, R. H. F. DALTON, Unit for Commonwealth and Development Studies in Education, Ring Road North, The University of Birmingham, PO Box 363, Birmingham.

Rural water supply

From Mr Griffith Einion Owens

Sir, I have been involved in two instances recently where long established rural properties exist under the constant threat of having their water supply cut off. The first is connected by means of a pipe laid under an adjoining landowner's field. This connection is the subject of a 12 month licence which may be terminated by the landowner at any time.

The second draws its water from a well. This well has been tested recently and found to be contaminated. There is a mains water point some 100 yards from the house, but the owner of the intervening land is under no obligation to allow a water connection to be made through his land.

Both properties have mains electricity and a telephone, with the two authorities being

Labour statement on circus animals

From Miss Mary Chipperfield

Sir, So the Labour Party is proposing to make illegal the use of performing wild animals in circuses (report, April 26). So how would I and my fellow trainers, together with our many grooms and other employees earn our living?

We, I suppose, must join the growing army of unemployed existing by the grace of the state. What do we do with all our animals? Shoot them? There would be no room in the zoos, already crowded enough. I do not suppose the RSPCA would wish, or be able, to have any of them in their homes.

It seems very strange to me that socialist here take this attitude and yet in the socialist republics of the Eastern block the circus, including its animal acts, is considered an art form promoted by the state. What is the difference? Perhaps we should not have invested all our own capital in animals and equipment and done it all ourselves.

If circus people in this country treat their animals so badly, why are we not prosecuted under existing laws? Should the Labour Party not consider encouraging circuses to provide more employment, as well as entertainment, rather than seeking to destroy them?

Please do not try to tell me a circus can be a circus without animals. It cannot — as the failure of a recent tented venture with financial support from the RSPCA has amply shown.

Yours faithfully, MARY CHIPPERFIELD, Mary Chipperfield Promotions Ltd, The Pheasantry, Llangefni, Wiltshire, April 27.

Utility mark?

From Mr H. R. F. Keating

Sir, Your recent page one notice "Hero's welcome" has suggested at me for days. Not for the first time, I believe, such common errors have a meaning more significant than might at first be supposed.

I suspect that apostrophes are frequently misused today because we have realized, subconsciously at least, that no apostrophe will be useful purpose. We are clever enough with words nowadays to understand phrases employing both the possessive case and omission without these intrusive little aids.

So, Sir, let us abolish the apostrophe. It would be a small reform, but a considerable beneficial effect. But how to achieve it? As a serious proposition? I suggest that *The Times* could declare at some date towards the end of this year that from January 1 next no apostrophe will appear in its pages. The rest of the country, indeed the whole English-speaking world, will sooner or later follow.

Yours faithfully, H. R. F. KEATING, 35 Northumberland Place, W2. April 21.

Historic buildings

From Mr Leslie K. Watson

Sir, Mrs Coker's letter (April 23) highlighting something which has been bothering the Royal Institute of British Architects for some time. At the request of the President of R.I.B.A., I was in touch with the Department of the Environment soon after the decision to speed up the listing of buildings was announced; and we offered to help in finding suitable people to do the work.

At a conference held at Beaulieu Abbey on March 26 I asked the Government's representative, Lord Avon, what was the progress, and got a very unhelpful reply.

Another branch of the department was able to act much more quickly in a similar situation to overcome the backlog of town planning appeals by enlisting the help of outside consultants.

I gather the delay is due to interdepartmental haggling. Yours faithfully, LESLIE K. WATSON, Silver Birch, West Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, April 27.

Stomach for the fight

From Commander R. A. Wilson

Sir, Further to Frank Johnson's "Secret weapon of the wardrobe" (April 29) on the lethal qualities of wardrobe victrolas and the possible deterrent effect they might have on the Argentinians, admittedly we do serve up some traditional delicacies such as Babes' Heads, Yellow Peril and Train Smash which might make them think twice before accepting RN hospitality for their return trip to Argentina.

However in defence of naval catering I would like to know that the sailor is a very discriminating customer and would betwixt Samuel Pepys's advice that "Englishmen, and more especially seamen, love their bellies above everything else, and therefore it must be remembered in the management of the Navy that to make abatement in any quantity or agreeableness of the victuals, is to discourage and provoke them in the tenderest points and render them more disgusted with the King's service than any other hardship that can be put upon them."

Yours faithfully, R. A. WILSON, Naval Catering Adviser, Ministry of Defence, Empress State Building, SW6.

Defence policy after the Falklands

From Mr Michael Chichester

Sir, Whatever the final outcome, the long-term strategic lessons of the Falklands crisis should not be those suggested by David Watt (April 30).

By advocating that Britain should continue to give priority in its defence planning to the protection of "north-west Europe" (and most of all these islands) from land attack from the east by conventional and nuclear means, he fails to take account of the fundamental changes in the nature of the threat facing the Western Alliance which has developed during the past decade. This threat is now global. An offensive by land and air forces towards the Rhine is only one of several strategic options available to the Soviet Union in its long-term plan to expand its interests worldwide. The "out of area" (the NATO area) element of the Soviet global threat can only be matched by sea power which must include both integral ship-borne and also shore-based air components backed by a rapid deployment intervention capability. The despatch of the Task Force to the South Atlantic has been a good example of what the response to out-of-area threats has to be.

Whilst it may be argued that at present the Antarctic is not an area of vital interest to the West, who can say for how long this would have continued to be the case if Argentine aggression had been allowed to succeed and had been followed by Argentine-Soviet collaboration in the area? It is not proposed that we should "try vainly to restore large global capabilities". But in

the allocation of our limited defence resources first priority should now be given to those maritime air forces which are flexible and capable not only of defending in conventional war the Eastern Atlantic and Channel and United Kingdom air space, as well as providing reinforcement for the Northern flank, but also of contribution to Allied out-of-area deployments which may become necessary in times of tension to protect vital Western interests.

Mr Watt has failed to grasp that rising defence costs and inevitable budget ceilings now prevent Britain from continuing to give priority to its contribution to the protection of North West Europe from land attack from the east except at a nationally unacceptable price, namely the reduction of the Royal Navy to the size proposed by Mr Nott in the July 1981 Defence Review.

There is no military logic in maintaining one third of our army and a sizeable part of our air force on the continent whilst at the same time risking the destruction of their reinforcements, fuel, and supplies (without which they will be overwhelmed) long before they reach the front-line.

The lesson of the Falklands Islands crisis is that a rearrangement of the priorities given to Britain's strategic role within the Alliance and not just a return to the status quo ante has become even more urgent than it was before the Task Force set sail.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant, MICHAEL CHICHESTER, 47c Melbury Road, W14. May 1.

Edited by Peter Dear

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4.55 News
5.00 Sports

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Phoenix and Veronica
Horan (ITV 7.30pm)

Classified

Announcements
Business to Business
Domestic Situations
Real Estate at Sharing
For Sale
Holidays and Villages
Legal Notices
Motor Cars
Musical Instruments
Property
Recruitment Opportunities
Rentals
Secretarial and Non-Secretarial

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Situations Wanted
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Box No. replies should be ad
The Times, P.O. Box
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To place a Classified Ad
To place an advertisement in any of
Private Advertisers and Births, M
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Personal Trade
Holidays and Villas (Trade)
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BR to abandon advanced train for new project

By Michael Bailey, Transport Correspondent

British Rail's much heralded train of the future, the 160 mph tilting Advanced Passenger Train (APT), is to be abandoned for the time being because it has too many things wrong with it.

Instead, an electric version of the Inter-City 125 diesel train (the HST) is to be urgently developed, with or without the APT's tilting mechanism, for service on the west coast and possibly other electrified main lines from the mid-1980s.

The decision not to go ahead with series production of the APT, to be ratified by the British Rail board in the near future, marks a victory for British Rail's conventional engineers who designed the HST after the APT but got it into successful service first. It is a severe blow for the bright young scientists who launched the APT in the white-heat of technological revolution at British Rail's Derby research centre in the late 1960s.

Capable of over 150 mph and possibly 250 mph eventually, by lightweight streamlined construction, advanced suspension, and the electronic tilting mechanism, the APT was supposed to revolutionize railways in the next century without huge investment in new track.

However, technical problems and shortage of funds delayed its planned introduction for five years until a disastrous debut last December. When it had to be withdrawn within days after repeated failures — partly due to the bitter winter weather — on the London-Glasgow line.

As the department of Transport insist on a year trouble-free public service before authorizing £350m for volume production — £40m — has been spent on development so far — and as new electric inter-city expresses are urgently needed for the late eighties, British Rail will have to develop something else in place of the APT.

They have already embarked on designs for a powerful electric locomotive — as disclosed in *The Times* last year — for a stopgap train in case the APT was not ready in time; and this, with the smooth air-conditioning mark 3 coaches operating with existing Inter-City 125s, will form the basis of the new stock.

The articulated bogies of the APT will go, as will its advanced hydro-kinebrakes. The big question is: how much remaining APT technology will be incorporated, in particular how much tilt? Either the coaches and loco could be made to tilt, saving more time on tilt, or the coaches could be made to tilt, saving more time on tilt.

Mr Cyril Bleasdale, British Rail's passenger director, said "The prototype is obviously not the train we want. Perhaps we failed to recognize it was a prototype as an association of ideas, where the first one built was destroyed. But we have learnt enough to know the concept is right."

"If we get it right next time — and I am sure we will — it will have a potential beyond 125 mph, or just the confined to London-Glasgow. My vision is of a two-million market for a two-hour commuter journey between London and Manchester."

Day jails considered for some prisoners

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Magistrates are discussing with senior Home Office officials, a proposal for daytime prisons. The Magistrates' Association wants offenders to be able to go to prisons for five-and-a-half to six days a week, as if going to work, returning home at night, when they would be under curfew.

Mr Dennis Trevelyan, director general of the prison service who has been involved in the discussions, said in the annual report on the prison system last week that it was on a knife-edge.

One advantage of the scheme would be that offenders could be housed in disused schools workshops or similar buildings, reducing severe overcrowding in prisons.

The prisoner would not have to sever home ties either as happens when he is inside full-time prison. The new penalty would be for offenders on whom a prison sentence would in any case be imposed. Magistrates had to impose those offenders to whom they could sentence a term of up to 26 weeks, the maximum custodial sentence magistrates can impose.

Mr Douglas Acres, chairman of the Sentencing of Offenders Committee of the Association, said "Public pressure demands a punitive alternative to full custody. There are already many therapeutic alternatives."

The offender would spend between 9 am and 10 pm under the supervision of prison staff and work on more monotonous tasks than those done on community service, the system run by probation officers as an alternative to prison.



Treading carefully: Swimmers pick their way past members of metal detecting clubs on Brighton Beach yesterday. The searchers took part in an operation to clear rubbish from the beach.

Poles celebrate May Day with defiance

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw, May 2

May Days are usually known for their disciplined proletarian joy; but yesterday will remain etched in the history of post-war Poland for its exuberant defiance of the military authorities and its open contempt for the communist system.

Chanting "down with the junta", "Free Lech Walesa" and "God protect Poland", tens of thousands of Solidarity supporters sprawled helplessly down the cobbled sidewalks of Warsaw's Old Town, ripping down flags, taunting the riot police, heading towards the Vistula river for a mass meeting, specifically banned by military regulations.

A similar gathering of about 50,000 people protested in Gdansk, birthplace of Solidarity, the underground trade union. The police who tacitly acknowledged the unspeakable act of truncheoning workers on a workers' holiday did nothing about these "alternative" May Day processions and the official celebrations went ahead as planned, although the one in Warsaw

resembled a funeral march of the Volga Boat Men.

But the spilling over of protest has raised some serious problems for the martial law authorities. Tomorrow Solidarity sympathizers are to gather before attending a Mass to mark the end of martial law.

The people have regained their confidence to demonstrate, which was lost after the shooting of miners in the first week after martial law. Now they have felt their strength again. Workers and Solidarity badges were worn freely. The demonstration broke about 10 martial regulations.

This will strengthen those in the Military Council and, more important, in the Communist Party who have argued against the relaxation of martial law. Yet for the past week the government has been much faster than liberalizing martial law, promising an end to the curfew and releasing about 1,000 internees to persuade the Church to join in bringing about a national compromise on issues such as revising the trade unions.

The balance of internal security — argued most fervently by the hardline party members — and the need to win back the trust of the people may thus have been tipped back in the hardliners' favour.

The first test will come tomorrow when the Parliament opens a two-day session. May 3 is Constitution Day, the anniversary of the Polish Parliament passing its first constitution, then the most liberal in the world, surpassing even the American constitution.

Mr Mieczyslaw Rakowski, the Deputy Prime Minister and one of the more conciliatory party leaders, wanted to make a speech to the Sejm (Parliament) on Monday urging controlled liberalization and a front of national understanding that would show that some of the elements of the Solidarity era had not been abandoned.

That speech will now be more difficult to make as the tougher, more dogmatic Marxist will point out behind the scenes that the Solidarity demonstration showed that

the suspended trade union is populated by anti-socialists. Any liberalization will therefore be rather than strengthening the Communist Party.

Yesterday it was difficult to find evidence contradicting this final line of argument. At 10 o'clock instead of watching the official parade and listening to a speech by General Jaruzelski calling on Poland to heal its wounds, the demonstrators jammed into Swietojanska Street in front of the cathedral and listened to a mass.

In the event, the police seemed to be most concerned about ensuring that the Solidarity march did not merge with the official communist one for that would have led to unpredictable results.

The police had blocked off the entrance road to the Central Committee building for fear that the demonstration turn violent, but in fact when the crowd finally dispersed it was done peacefully in a field on the banks of the Vistula watched by almost every inhabitant of the Old Town.

Leading article, page 9

Lead-free petrol pledge by Labour

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

The next Labour Government will move swiftly to ban lead in petrol, the party's national executive committee promises today.

In a statement agreed at its meeting last Wednesday, the NEC pledges that it will press for the introduction of lead-free petrol to be included as a top priority in the next election manifesto.

Under the commitment the next Labour government would require by law that all new cars sold in Britain be manufactured to run on lead-free petrol; all petrol stations would have to have lead-free petrol available for sale to the general public; and the use of leaded petrol in existing cars would be phased out "over a generation of cars". Fuel duties would be changed to make lead-free petrol cheaper.

The likelihood of the commitment appearing in the next Labour manifesto is high. Labour's environment spokesman has spoken in favour of a ban and last year's party conference passed a resolution calling for a complete ban on the use of lead in petrol.

The NEC says that is making the party's position clear now so that oil companies planning to make changes to comply with the Government's decision last year to reduce the lead content in petrol from 0.4 to 0.15 grams a litre from 1985 can go the whole way. "The oil companies may choose the zero option today if they realize that the costs they would incur for the Tory transition will have to be repeated under Labour."

The NEC says that lead poses a sinister and serious health risk. It points to evidence that the mental health of children can be adversely affected at relatively low levels of lead exposure; lead in petrol is not only the major source but it is also the course which is easiest to control.

Other countries have gone much further than Britain, the NEC says. In the United States, every post-1975 car has been required by law to take lead-free petrol, Japan is almost lead-free and Australia is phasing lead.

"The costs to the oil companies of going lead-free have always been exaggerated," it states. "The Tories have made gestures to poison our children a little less quickly but the poison will be still there."

Britain admits sub sank trawler

From Craig Seton, Belfast

In the middle of Britain's naval conflict over the Falkland Islands, the Ministry of Defence has admitted that a British submarine accidentally sank an Irish trawler two weeks ago.

The incident happened about 30 miles off Howth, near Dublin, in the Irish Sea. The 70ft trawler, *Sharelga*, was dragged backwards for two miles and capsized after its nets became tangled with an underwater object.

The crew of five were rescued and insisted a submarine was responsible, but no British confirmation was given until this weekend. The Ministry of Defence gave no details of how the incident happened, apart from saying that a submarine became caught in the trawler's nets and that fair and reasonable costs of the trawler would be paid. It is understood that the British position is that the commander of the submarine was unaware of the incident.

Mr Raymond McEvoy, the

owner-skipper of the Irish trawler yesterday said he would be asking the British for £20,000 to cover the cost of a new vessel.

Mr John Wilson, the Irish transport minister, last night acknowledged Britain's recognition of responsibility for the sinking. But he said he wanted to know why there had been such a delay in admitting involvement and why there had been no apparent effort to make sure that nobody was killed as a result of the incident.

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Royal engagements

Princess Anne, commandant-in-chief, Women's Transport Service (FANY) visits the annual training at Warren Camp, Crowborough, East Sussex, 11.

May day events

Slough canal centenary festival. Bowers Field, St Paul's Avenue, Slough, 10.30 to 5.30. Steam engine enthusiasts day: steam rides and side shows. Quaint railway centre, Quainton Road station, Quainton, Aylesbury, 10 to 6. Bygone weekend: an outdoor exhibition of domestic, agricultural and industrial by-gones, reflecting the

history of Burwell, Burwell, Cambridge, 10 to 6.

May day festivals at Thamesmead, Southmere Park and Lesnes Abbey Park. Abbey Wood, children's entertainment, maypole, music, dance, regatta; open 11 am; fireworks display 9 pm.

Burgess Park, SE5. Bands, water-ski show, donkey derby, children's entertainment, open 11 am; fireworks display 9 pm.

Wormwood Scrubs: Steel bands, maypole, jazz, children's entertainment, open 11 am; fireworks display 9 pm.

Curtis Park, SE10. Maypole, Morris dancing, jazz, children's shows, open 11 am; Marble Hill House, Twickenham; exhibition, dance, chil-

dren's show, folk singing; open 11 am.

New exhibitions

Pictures of popular pursuits and public pleasures: Fine Art Society, 148 New Bond Street, W1; Mon to Fri 9.30 to 5.30; Sat 10 to 1, closed Sun; (until May 28).

Paintings, etchings and drawings by Annable Gasson, Susan Radwell and Margaret Matthews; Annexe Gallery, 45 High Street, Wimbledon, SW19; Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 11 to 5; closed Wed; (until May 24).

Last chance to see: Exhibition of embroidery and Vestments 1520-1980, and also paintings by English artists and TV drama costumes; St John's Church, Rammoor, Sheffield, 10.10 am to 7 pm.

Harveys: history of wine collecting and buying; the Old Glass Engravers and engraved glass from the Castle Museum collection, Castle Road, Nottingham, 10 to 4.45.

John Ruskin: exhibition of drawings and watercolours, Whitworth Art Gallery, University of Manchester, Whitworth Park, Manchester, 10 to 5.

Australian Art of the Western Desert, work of tribal Aboriginals in Central Australia. Museum of Modern Art, Burlington Gardens, W1; Mon 10 to 5, closed Fri; (until May 29).

May Day — milkmaids garland, an exhibition of paintings and engravings showing 18th century May Day customs. Marble Hill House, Richmond, Road, Twickenham; Mon - Sun 10 to 5, closed Fri; (until May 31).

Music

Organ recital by Harry Bramma; Southwark Cathedral, Southwark, 1.10.

Piano recital by John Savory; St Martin-in-the-Fields, 7.30.

Sainsbury's festival of choirs, Royal Albert Hall, 7.30.

Walks

Legal and illegal London, Inns of Court, meet Holborn Underground, 11.

A London village, Hampstead, meet Hampstead Underground, 2.

Museums closed

The following museums and galleries are closed today (Bank Holiday Monday): British Library, British Museum, Crafts Council (closed every Mon), Geological Museum, Hayward Gallery, ICA (closed every Mon), Imperial War Museum, Museum of London (closed every Mon), Museum of Mankind, National Army Museum, National Maritime Museum (also closed tomorrow), National Portrait Gallery, Natural History Museum, RAF Museum, Hendon, Science Museum, Tate Gallery, Victoria and Albert Museum, Whitechapel Art Gallery, Zoological Museum, Tring.

London Tourist Board public information service operates as normal today 9.55-3.30 (01-730 0791).

Mini marathon

Jimmy Saville will lead a mini marathon for charity. It will be operating two return services daily, increasing to four sailings daily, starting at 11 am.

The pound

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia \$	1.75	2.00
Austria S	31.00	29.00
Belgium Fr	89.00	84.00
Canada \$	2.24	2.15
Denmark Kr	14.81	14.06
France Fr	7.25	7.20
Germany DM	11.35	10.75
Greece Dr	4.37	4.12
Italy Lira	116.00	109.00
Portugal Esc	207.00	200.00
Spain Ptas	165.00	160.00
Sweden Kr	10.86	10.28
Switzerland Fr	3.66	3.48
USA \$	1.85	1.78
Yugoslavia Dnr	98.00	92.00

Rate for small denomination bank notes only, as supplied on Friday by Barclays Bank International. Interest rates apply to 12-month deposits. Exchange rates are current.

London: The FT Index closed down 6.9 at 57.1 on Friday evening.

New York: The Dow Jones industrial average closed up 3.42 at 848.36.

Nature notes

Nightingales are singing again in thick coppices; spotted flycatchers are busy at gates and walls, darting out for insects. Wood warblers have returned to the beech tops; they have two songs, a run of deep notes almost like a nightingale's, and a high shivery trill. Linnet are nesting in gorse bushes; the male whistles excitedly on high spray, while the female goes deep into the bush with grass and feathers.

Mothbatches use mud to plaster up ragged holes in tree-trunks, leaving only a small round entrance; inside they line their nests with flakes of pine-bark. Mallard ducks are already hatched and out on the water, often in broods of nine or ten; they are very noisy, and their paddles wildly back into a tight cluster again.

Beeches and ash-trees are coming slowly into leaf; sycamores are in full leaf, with long trailing yellow flowers. The first blossom is opening on the hawthorns. Buttercups appear; herb-robert is pink on the roadsides. The long stems of ribwort plantain stand high above the grass. New butterflies on the wing are the orange-tips, especially in meadows where lady's smock is growing. Hoverflies hang motionless before the early flowers of the cow parsley. DJM

Bond winners

Winning numbers in the weekly draw for Premium Bonds prizes are: £100,000 winner: 5JF 770225 (winner comes from Dunbartonshire); £50,000 winner: 17K2 129930 (London borough of Merton); £25,000 winner: 6FK 610066 (Edinburgh).

Dunkirk ferry

Sally the Viking Line has reintroduced its Ramsgate-Dunkirk ferry service. It will be operating two return services daily, increasing to four sailings daily in the summer.

The papers

The Daily Mirror writes today that the fighting over the Falklands has started peace is more urgent and yet more difficult to achieve. It is essential that the Cabinet and Commons demonstrate their willingness to reach a negotiated settlement, it says. "The eventual agreement will not be far from General Haig's last proposals."

Sunday papers

The blitz on the Falklands dominated the papers yesterday as they gave a blow by blow account of the bombardment of Port Stanley. The Sunday Telegraph said that the way was cleared for the direct British assault and the message of the bombers to the junta was that the gap between the options of blockade or assault was widening.

The Observer gave credit to the Government for recognizing the green light for peace now that the Americans have given their full backing to the British cause. The Sunday paper, Mail, chose to write its first leader on the qualities of Mrs Thatcher's leadership. "She has the Churchill touch."

The Sunday Times reflected on the forthcoming local elections and said that the Government's handling of the Falklands conflict was a reason for voting either for or against the Conservatives. The elections should be about local issues such as unemployment and efficient services.

Anniversaries today

Niccolo Machiavelli was born at Florence in 1469 and Golda Meir at Kiev, Ukraine, in 1898. Thomas Hood died in London, 1845.

Sporting fixtures

Football: First division: Tottenham Hotspur v Liverpool (7.45). One third day on and one fourth division match.

Racing: Flat meetings at Kempton Park (2.0), Doncaster (2.15) and Warwick (2.15). Mixed meeting at Haydock Park (2.0). NH at Towcester (2.0). Football: Park (2.0), Devon and Exeter (2.15), Ludlow (2.15), Southwell (2.30), and Newcastle (2.15).

Athletics: IAU Championships at Crystal Palace National Sports Centre.

Cricket (All 11.30 to 6.30): MCC Nottinghamshire, at Lord's; Cambridge University v Warwickshire, at Cambridge; Oxford University v Kent, at Oxford.

Football: London League play off final: Slough v Teddington, at Crystal Palace (4.15).

Sport on TV

BBC1: 1.0, Grandstand including 1.5 and 1.40 International rallyprint, 1.20, 2.10, 2.40 and 3.10 International snooker, 1.55, 2.25 and 2.55 racing from Haydock, 3.10 International show jumping, 11.20, International show jumping from Hickstead, featuring Kerrygold Cup.

BBC2: 11.25, 5.10, 7.30, and 9.45 International snooker.

ITV: 1.5, Bank Holiday sport including 1.5 sports desk, 1.10 speedway from Swindon, 1.20 cricket from Lord's, 1.30 ice hockey, 2.10 ITV six racing, 3.40 cricket, 4.00 ice hockey, 4.45 results.

Weather forecast

A deep depression over NE Scotland will move away into the North Sea

6 am to midnight

London, SE. Cent S England, East Angles, E Midlands, Channel Islands: Rain dying out, bright intervals developing and a few showers; wind strong; max temp 10 to 12c (50 to 54).

E. cent N, NE England, W Midlands: Bright or sunny intervals, blustery showers developing; wind strong to gale; max temp 8 to 10c (46 to 50).

SW England, Wales: Blustery showers with intervals; wind a w, strong to gale; max temp 10 to 12c (50 to 54).

NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, SW Scotland, N Ireland: Windy with heavy rain; wind a w, strong to gale; max temp 8 to 10c (46 to 50).

Aberdeen, Edinburgh and Dundee, Shetland: Windy showers, some heavy and prolonged; wind a w, strong to gale; max temp 8 to 10c (46 to 50).

NE, NW Scotland, Argyll, Orkney, Shetland: Windy showers, some heavy and prolonged; wind a w, strong to gale; max temp 8 to 10c (46 to 50).

SE, NW Scotland, Argyll, Orkney, Shetland: Windy showers, some heavy and prolonged; wind a w, strong to gale; max temp 8 to 10c (46 to 50).

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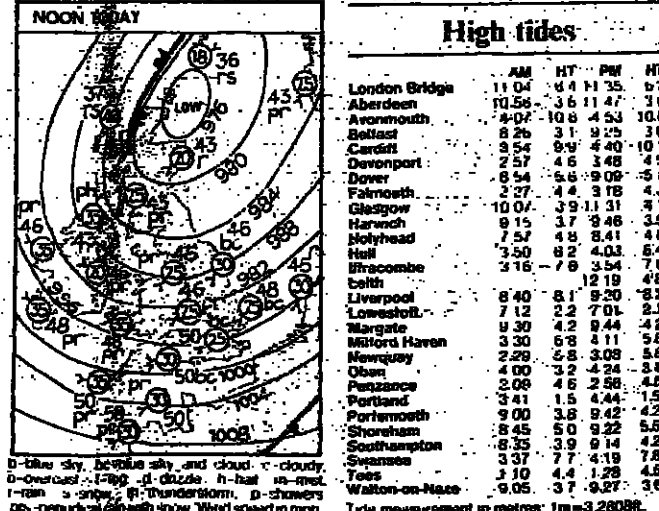
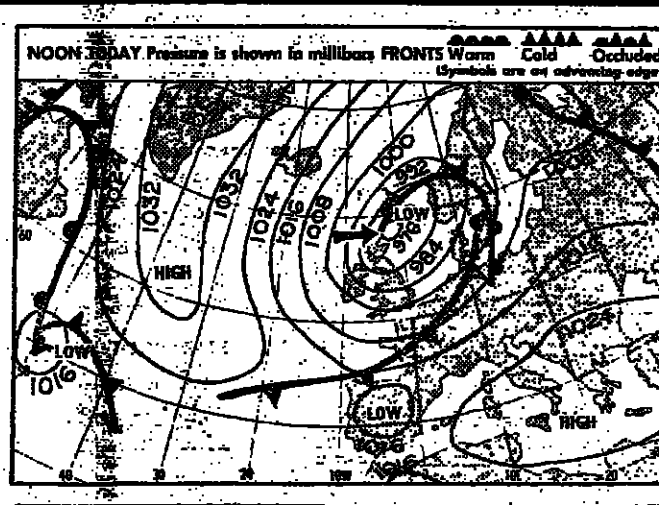
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Around Britain

Location	Sun		M	C	W	Sun		M	C	W	Sun	M	C	W
	ts	rain				ts	rain							
Scarboro	4.0	11	52	Cloudy			Falmouth	3.8	12	54				Sun pds
Bedford	4.0	11	52	Sun mts			Portsmouth	3.8	12	54				Sun pds
Brighthelm	4.0	11	52	Sun mts			Jersey	7.2	13	56				Sun pds
Cromer	4.0	11	52	Sun mts			Scilly Isles	8.2	13	56				Sun pds
Georgetown	4.0	11	52	Sun mts			Torquay	7.2	13	56				Sun pds
Liverpool	4.0	11	52	Sun pds			Wexford	7.2	13	56				Sun pds
London	4.0	11	52	Sun pds			Wexford	7.2	13	56				Sun pds
Manchester	4.0	11	52	Sun pds			Wexford	7.2	13	56				Sun pds
Medway	4.0	11	52	Sun pds			Wexford	7.2	13	56				Sun pds
Newcastle	4.0	11	52	Sun pds			Wexford	7.2	13	56				Sun pds
Northfleet	4.0	11	52	Sun pds			Wexford	7.2	13	56				Sun pds
Portsmouth	4.0	11	52	Sun pds			Wexford	7.2	13	56				Sun pds
Reading	4.0	11	52	Sun pds			Wexford	7.2	13	56				Sun pds
Southampton	4.0	11	52	Sun pds			Wexford	7.2	13	56				Sun pds
Weymouth	4.0	11	52	Sun pds			Wexford	7.2	13	56				Sun pds
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